**13.4 Food Chains and Food Webs**

*Key Concept: Food chains and food webs model the flow of energy in an ecosystem.*

l. A food chain links species by their feeding relationships.

* Links producers and consumers
* **Herbivores**: eat only plants
* **Carnivores**: eat only meats
* **Omnivores**: eat plants and animals

ll. A **specialist** is a consumer that primarily eats only one organism.

lll. **Generalists** are consumers that have a varying diet.

lV. Tropic levels in a pyramid

* Primary consumers are herbivores and eat producers
* Secondary consumers are carnivores that eat herbivores
* Tertiary consumers are carnivores that eat secondary consumers
* Omnivores, such as humans, eat both plants and animals and may be listed in different tropic levels in different food chains.

V. A food Web shows a complex network of feeding relationships.

* An organism may have multiple feeding relationships in an ecosystem.
* A food web emphasizes complicated feeding relationships and energy flow in an ecosystem.