**Word Bank:**

food web

producer

consumer

decomposer

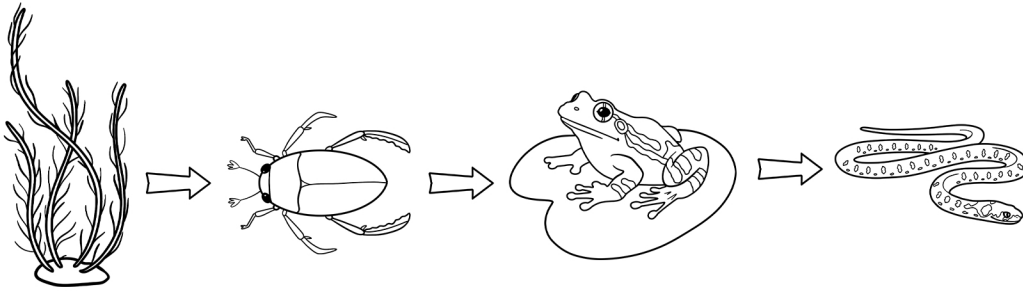
Every living thing in a pond is connected through a food web. It starts with producers, like algae and pond plants, which use sunlight to make their own food. Small consumers, like insects, eat the producers. Frogs are consumers too. They eat insects and other small animals, which gives them the energy they need to grow and move. Frogs are also prey for bigger consumers, like herons, snakes, and fish, which hunt frogs for food. When any plant or animal in the pond dies, decomposers like bacteria and fungi break it down, releasing nutrients back into the water and soil, which helps new producers grow. Together, all of these living things and their connections make up the pond ecosystem. If one part of the food web changes, like if there were suddenly no insects for frogs to eat, it could affect every other part of the pond, too.

1. What is a producer and what is one example?

2. Name two things a frog eats.

3. What job do decomposers do in the food web?

4. Why could losing all the insects in a pond affect the whole ecosystem?

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1. What is a producer and what is one example?

A producer makes its own food using sunlight, like algae or pond plants.

2. Name two things a frog eats.

Insects and other small animals.

3. What job do decomposers do in the food web?

Decomposers break down dead plants and animals and return nutrients to the water and soil.

4. Why could losing all the insects in a pond affect the whole ecosystem?

Frogs would lose a main source of food, which could reduce the frog population and affect every animal connected to frogs in the food web.

