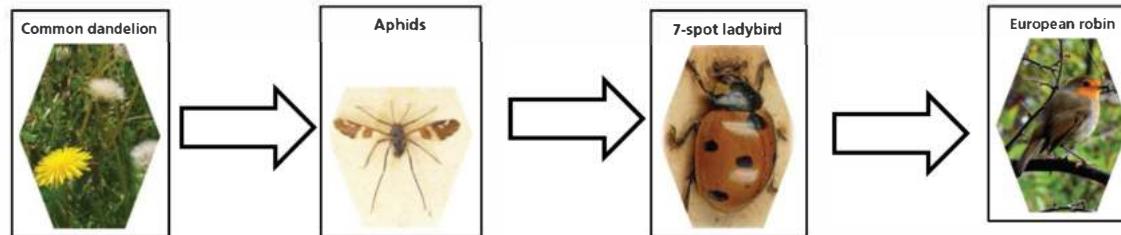


Insects in Food Chains

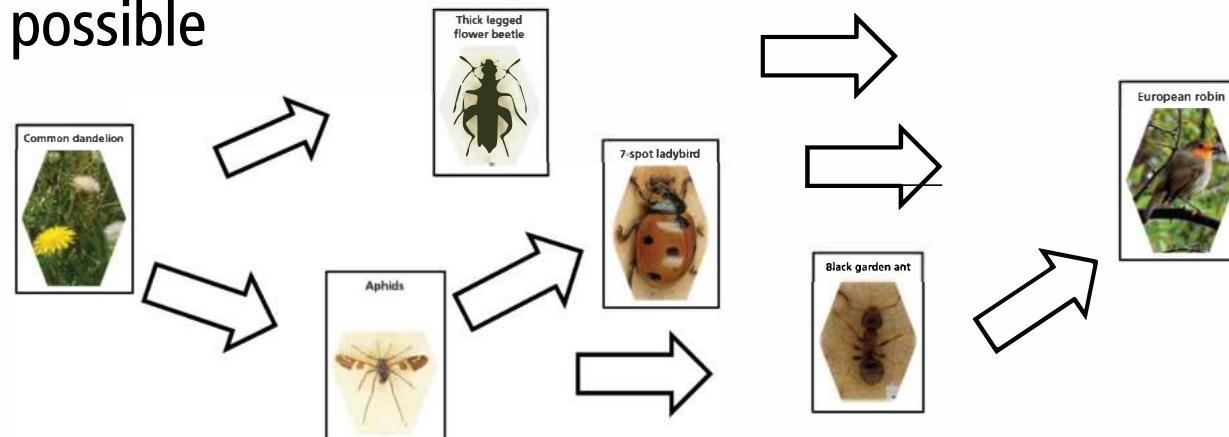


Investigate the important role that insects play in food chains

1. **Create at least 3 simple food chains using at least 3 cards in each** using the information on the cards to help you



2. **Make as big a food web as you can** by connecting as many of the cards as possible



Dor beetle

Geotrupes stercorarius

What do they eat?

Cow pats and other types of dung (poo)

Fact: Dor beetles eat their own weight in poo each day

Thick-legged flower beetle

Oedemera nobilis

What do they eat?

Pollen and nectar from flowers which have an open structure

Fact: These beetles are pollinators, carrying pollen between flowers

7-spot ladybird

Coccinella septempunctata

What do they eat?

Mostly aphids, however they do eat other small insects too

Fact: Ladybirds are brightly coloured to warn predators that they don't taste very nice

Black devil's coach horse beetle

Ocyphus olens

What do they eat?

Fly larvae, insects, and other invertebrates

Fact: This beetle can fly, but is rarely seen in the air

Black garden ant

Lasius niger

What do they eat?

Ripe soft fruits; honeydew from aphids; anything it finds, particularly if sweet

Fact: These ants "farm" aphids who get food by sucking the sap from plants. They give some of this to ants in the form of honeydew in return for protection from predators

Honey bee

Apis mellifera

What do the adults eat?

Nectar and pollen from flowers

What do the larvae eat?

Beebread (a mixture of pollen and nectar from flowers); royal jelly (made by other bees)

Fact: Most honey bee larvae eat beebread, and become sterile worker bees. Those that eat royal jelly become Queen bees

German wasp

Vespula germanica

What do the adults eat?

Rotten fruit; nectar; aphid honeydew; sugary picnic food

What do the larvae eat?

Flies, aphids, caterpillars and other invertebrates

Fact: The wasps sting prey to immobilise and capture them to feed their larvae

Beewolf wasp

Philanthus triangulum

What do the adults eat?

Nectar from flowers

What do the larvae eat?

Honey bees

Fact: Female bee wolf wasps paralyse worker honey bees with a sting in order to lay eggs in them. When the eggs hatch the larvae feed on the honey bees

Black devil's coach horse beetle



7-spot ladybird



Thick-legged flower beetle



Dor beetle



Beewolf wasp



German wasp



Honey bee



Black garden ant



Peppered moth

Biston betularia

What do the adults eat?

Nectar from flowers, fruit pulp and leaves

What do the larvae eat?

The leaves of tree and shrubs including Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Birch, Beech, Bramble, Broom, Black Currant and Hop

Fact: The caterpillars resemble twigs, making them well camouflaged

Peacock butterfly

Aglais io

What do the adults eat?

Nectar from flowers

What do the larvae eat?

The leaves of common (stinging) nettles

Fact: The “eyespots” pattern on the butterfly’s wings are to confuse and alarm predators

Cinnabar moth

Tyria jacobaeae

What do the adults eat?

Nectar from flowers

What do the larvae eat?

The caterpillars eat the leaves and flowers of Common ragwort

Fact: The bright colours of the moth and caterpillar warn predators that they do not taste very nice. It is the Common ragwort, which they eat, that makes them taste bitter and nasty

Aphids

What do they eat?

The sap from plants

Fact: Aphids range in size from 1 to 7mm. They can be found on almost any plant and can cause damage to the plant, particularly if there are lots of them

Green shield bug

Palomena prasina

What do they eat?

Plant sap and leaves

Fact: Also known as a green stink bug because, if disturbed or handled, they can release a nasty smell

Hornet robber fly

Asilus crabroniformis

What do they eat?

Mostly dung beetles and their larvae, but will also eat bees and grasshoppers

Fact: While they look like hornets, they are not harmful to humans

Image: “Hornet Robberfly (m) - *Asilus crabroniformis* 1a” by Dluogs is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

Blue bottle fly

Calliphora vomitoria

What do the larvae eat?

Dead animals

What do the adults eat?

Nectar from flowers

Fact: The adult flies lay their eggs on dead, rotting animals, so that when they hatch the larvae have lots of food around them

Dark-edged bee-fly

What do they eat?

Nectar from spring flowers, like primroses or violets

Fact: Looks and buzzes like a bee, but it is actually a fly. It is seen flying around in the early spring

Aphids



Cinnabar moth



Peacock butterfly



Peppered moth



Dark-edged bee-fly



Blue bottle fly



Hornet robber fly



Green shield bug



Common earwig

Forficula auricularia

What do they eat?

Plants, flowers, dead animals and small insects

Fact: Earwigs have wings, but don't usually like to use them

Common field grasshopper

Chorthippus brunneus

What do they eat?

Mainly grass, but also other plants

Fact: The male grasshoppers create a 'song' for the females by rubbing their legs against their wings

Image: Karora, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Southern hawker dragonfly

Aeshna cyanea

What do the adults eat?

Other flying insects

What do the larvae eat?

Aquatic insects and other small animals found in the water

Fact: The dragonfly larvae, also called nymphs, live in small ponds

Cow dung

Image: Karora, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Ragwort

Senecio jacobaea

Apple tree

Malus x domestica

Common dandelion

Taraxacum officinale

Common nettles

Urtica dioica

Cow dung



Southern hawker dragonfly



Common field grasshopper



Common earwig



Common nettles



Common dandelion



Apple tree



Ragwort



Garden spider

Araneus diadematus

What do they eat?

Flying insects, including flies, wasps and butterflies

Fact: The garden spider weaves a web, and catches anything that flies into that web

Image: "Araneus diadematus" by ComputerHotline is licensed under CC BY 2.0

European hedgehog

Erinaceus europaeus

What do they eat?

Hedgehogs eat insects and other invertebrates, including beetles, earwigs and caterpillars

Fact: Hedgehogs snuffle through the undergrowth, and catch prey they disturb using their good sense of smell and hearing

Image: "Hedgehog (Erinaceus europaeus)" by tartaruga33 is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Lesser horseshoe bat

Rhinolophus hipposideros

What do they eat?

Flies, small moths, caddis flies, lacewings, beetles, small wasps and spiders

Fact: The lesser horseshoe bat is one of the smallest bats in Britain. All British bats eat insects

Image: "Lesser horseshoe bat (Rhinolophus hipposideros) bat flying towards you" by Jessicajil is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

European robin

Erithacus rubecula

What do they eat?

Worms, seeds, fruits, insects and other invertebrates

Fact: Robins sing nearly all year round

Image: "Erithacus rubecula. Robin." by pete. #hwcp is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Common chaffinch

Fringilla coelebs

What do they eat?

Insects and seeds

Fact: The colours and patterns of their feathers make it easier for them to blend into their surroundings when feeding on the ground

Image: "Chaffinch (Fringilla coelebs)" by Andreas Trepte is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.5

Broad leaved grasses

**Broad leaved
grasses**



European robin



**Lesser horseshoe
bat**



Garden spider

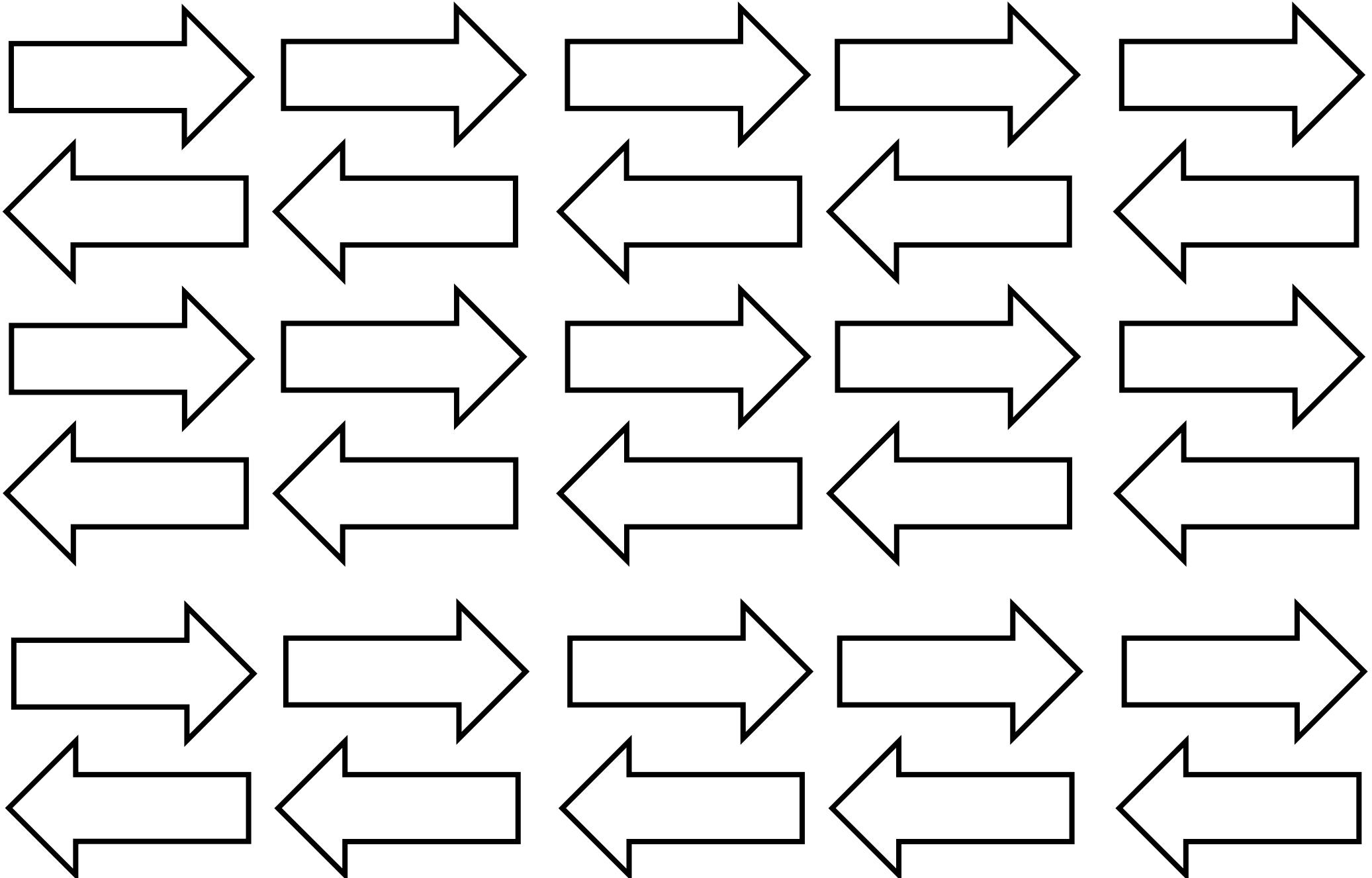


Common chaffinch



European hedgehog





When printing, set to: *print on both sides of paper; flip along short edge.*