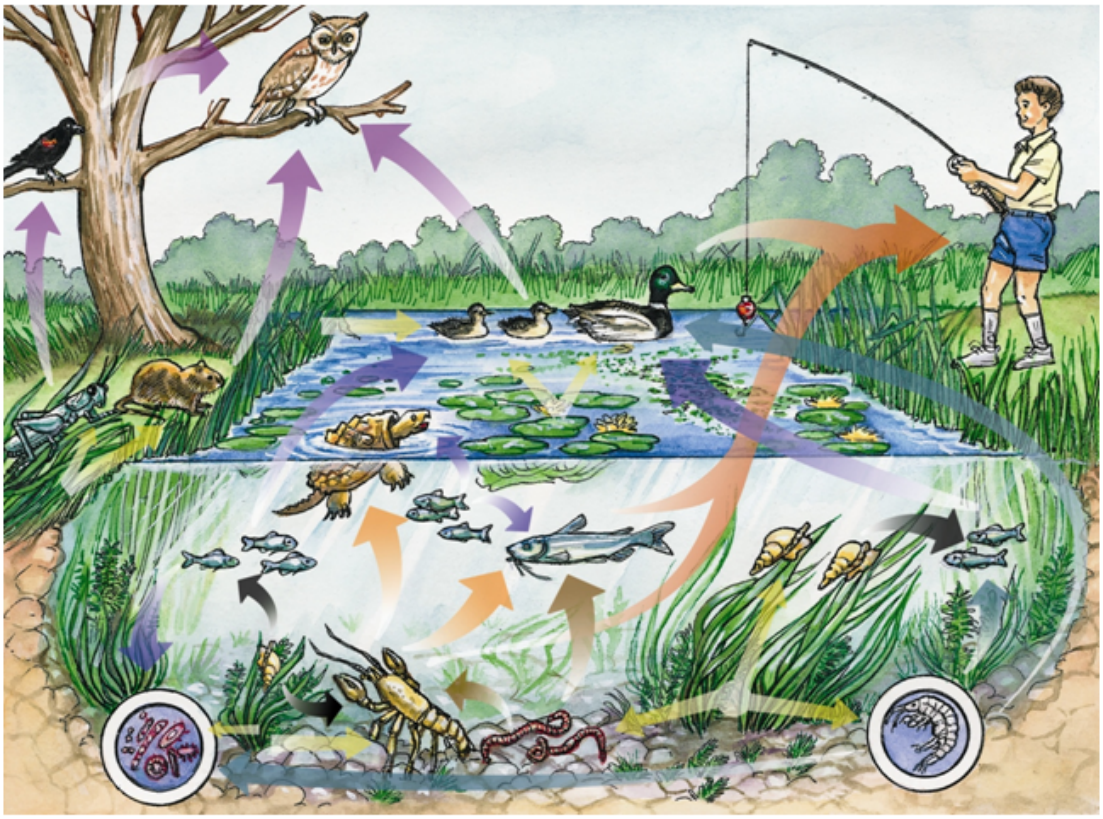
In most ecosystems, feeding relationships are more complex then can be shown in a food chain.

When the feeding relationships among various organisms in an ecosystem form a network of complex interactions, ecologists describe these relationships as food webs.

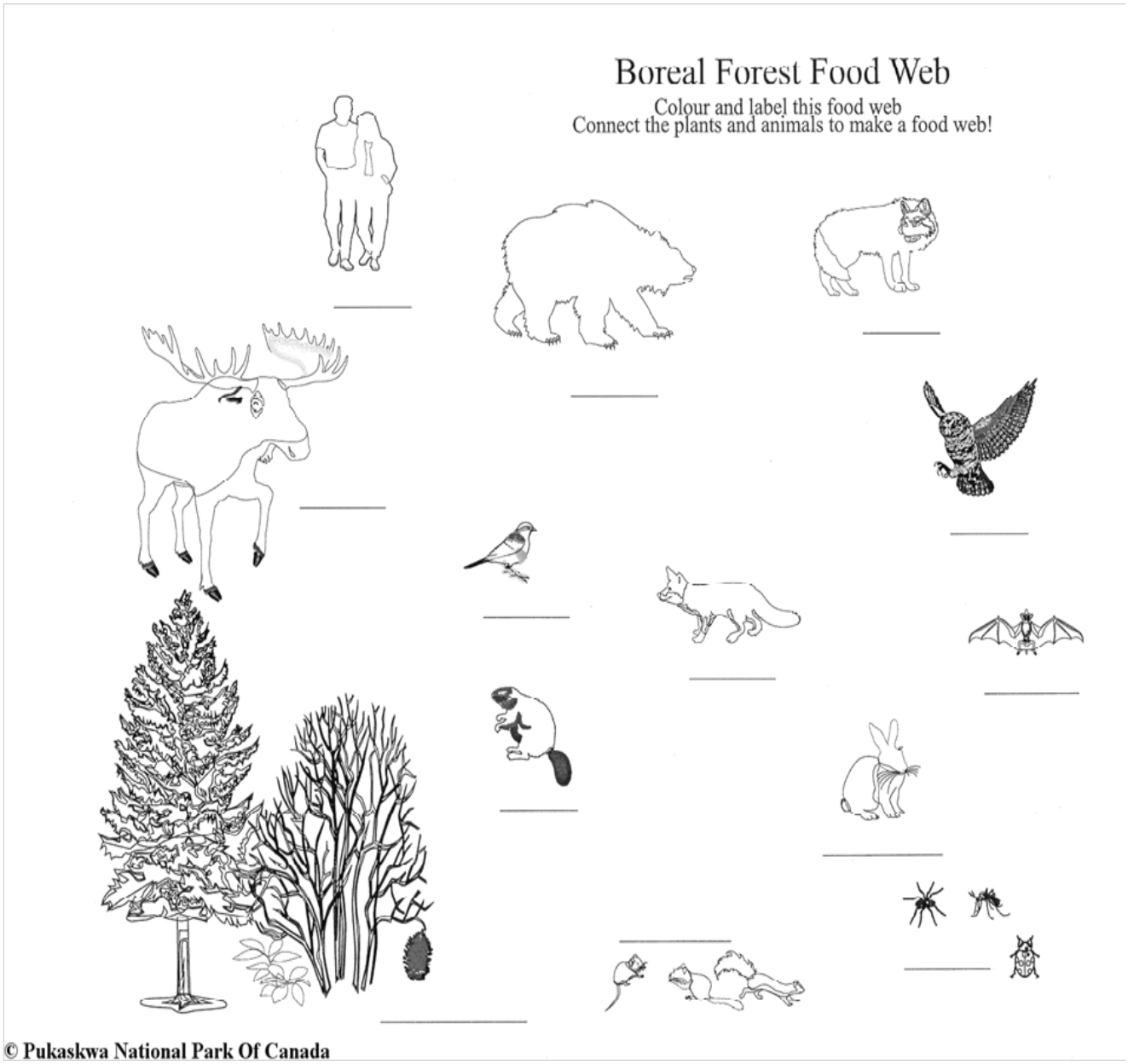
A food web links all the food chains in an ecosystem together.

Food Web

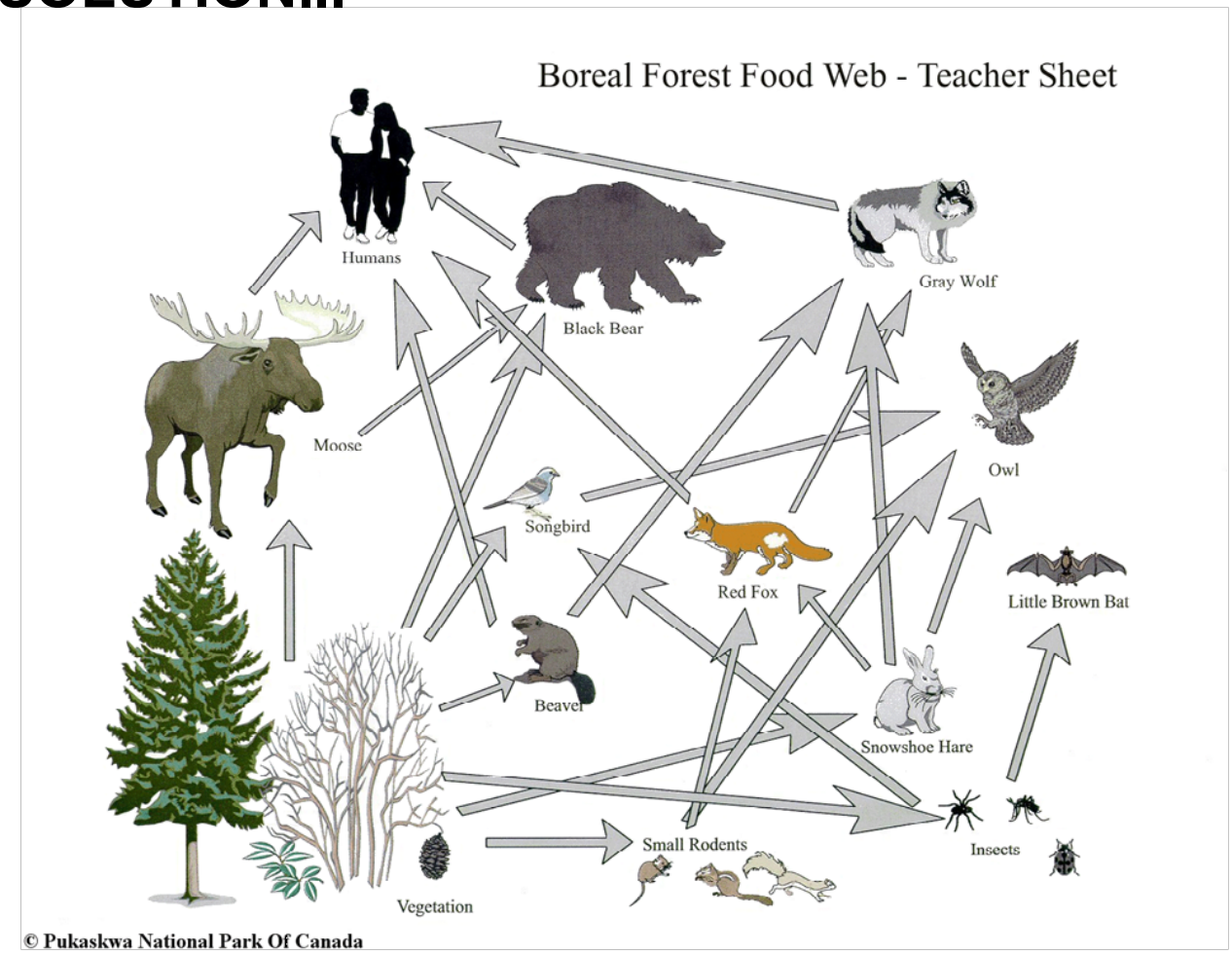
A food web shows the many possible food chains that exist in an ecosystem.



EXERCISE...


Boreal Forest Food Web
Colour and label this food web
Connect the plants and animals to make a food web!
© Pukaskwa National Park Of Canada

SOLUTION...


Boreal Forest Food Web - Teacher Sheet
Humans
Black Bear
Gray Wolf
Moose
Owl
Songbird
Red Fox
Little Brown Bat
Beaver
Snowshoe Hare
Insects
Small Rodents
Vegetation
© Pukaskwa National Park Of Canada

Trophic Levels

Each step in a food chain or food web is called a trophic level (feeding level).

Greek: *trophe* -> food or nourishment

Producers make up the first trophic level
Consumers make up the second, third or higher trophic levels
Each consumer depends on the trophic level below it for energy.

Marine Ecosystem

Very Important

algae → zooplankton → herring → squid → shark

producer	first consumer (primary)	second consumer (secondary)	third consumer (tertiary)	fourth consumer (quaternary) or top consumer
producer	herbivore	first carnivore	second carnivore	third carnivore or top carnivore

Ex) may say write a food chain where an snake is a first order carnivore

Know them interchangeably

Ex) A third order consumer may also be called a second carnivore

Assignment - Food Chains and Food Web

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Attachments

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