

# Food Chains in Cootes Paradise



Cootes Paradise Marsh sits at the far western end of Lake Ontario.



**Cootes Paradise**  
Google Earth image 10/9/2016

Legend

It covers 320 hectares and sits between Hamilton and Burlington, ON.



The **Bald Eagle** is one of the inhabitants of Cootes Paradise Nature Sanctuary. It is a bird of prey and is one of the largest birds in Canada.

What kind of habitat does a Bald Eagle need?

It requires open water so that it can find its food. It also needs a large forested area nearby with tall undisturbed trees where it can build a nest away from humans.

Cootes Paradise Nature Sanctuary is an excellent habitat for the Bald Eagle, because it provides everything that this bird of prey needs to survive.



**What does the Bald Eagle eat?**

It has a varied diet, which includes:



Fish, like the Channel Catfish



Wetland birds, like the Mallard Duck



Small mammals, like the Grey Squirrel



These animals all live in or near Cootes Paradise Marsh, which is their **habitat**. Because they share this habitat with the Bald Eagle, they are part of the same **community**.

All of these animals eat plants or eat things that eat plants. They are called **consumers**.



**What do these animals eat?**



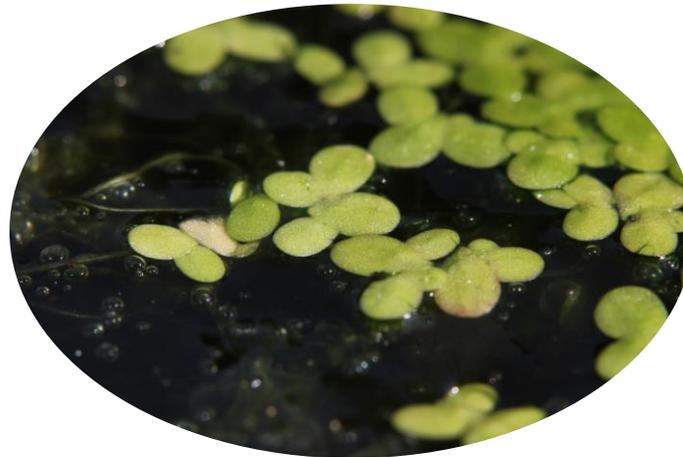
Channel Catfish eat aquatic insects.



Mallard Ducks eat aquatic plants and insects.



Grey Squirrels eat seeds and nuts.



Where do these food sources come from?



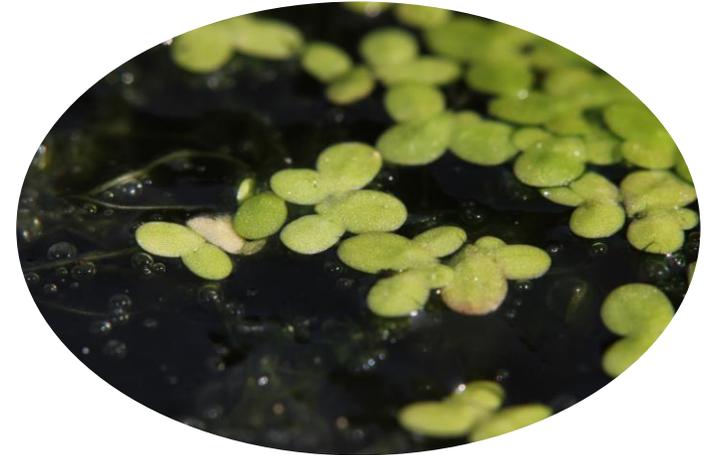
Nuts come from trees.



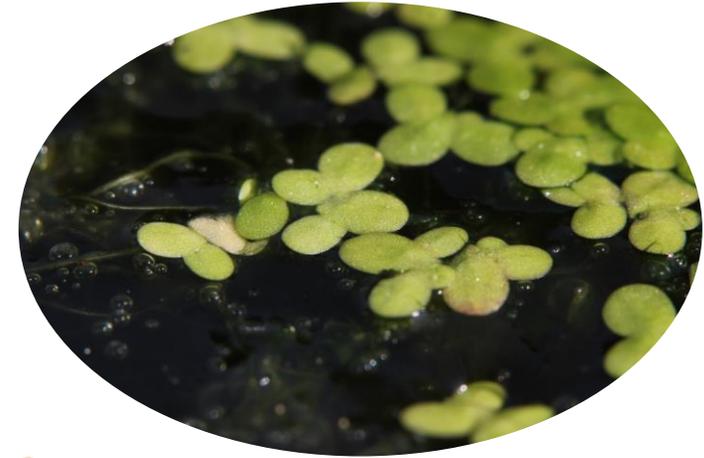
Aquatic insects eat aquatic plants.



Plants receive their energy from the sun. They are called the **producers** in the habitat.

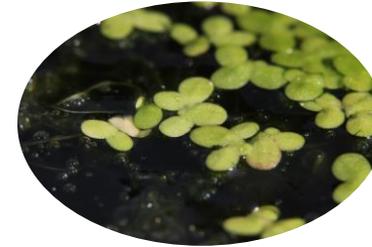


Plants get their energy from the sun.

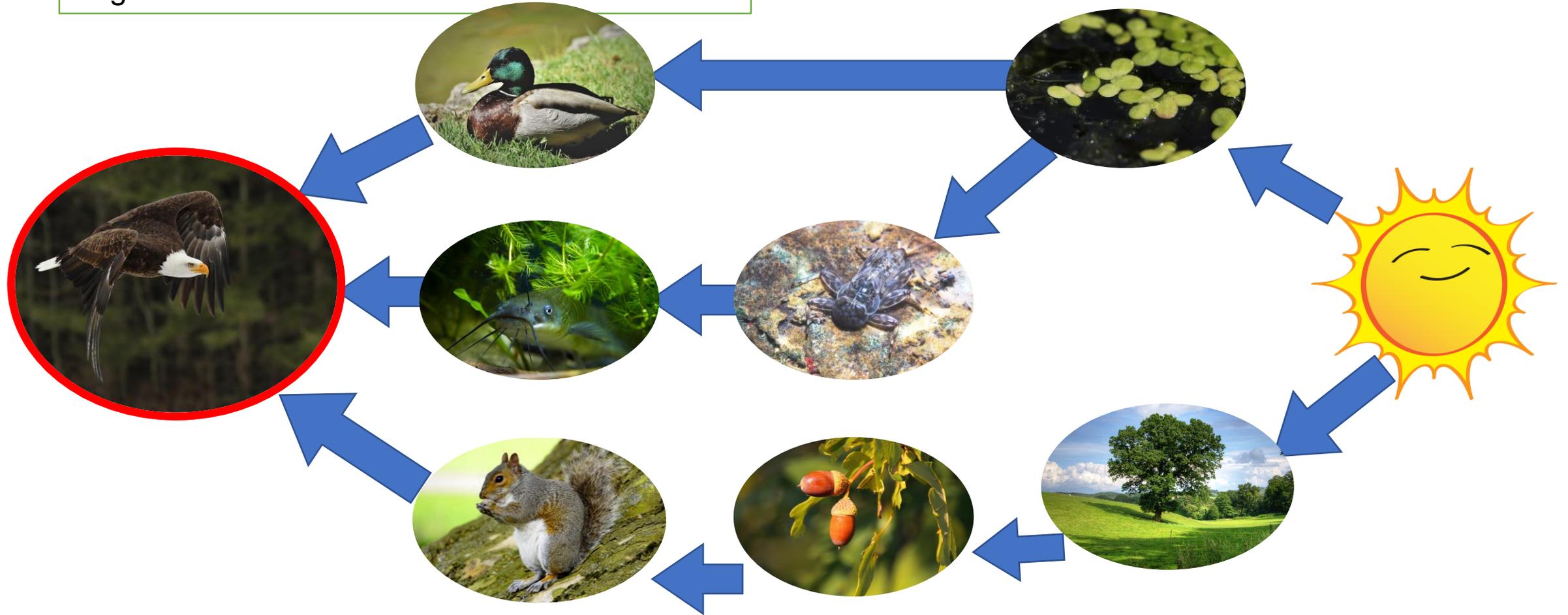


**All of these different organisms are connected.** They share a habitat and make up a community.

Together they form a food chain. Without this food chain, the Bald Eagle would not get the food it needs to survive.



In this food chain, the arrows show how the energy from the sun is passed from plants (producers) to animals (consumers) to the Eagle.





Cootes Paradise Nature Sanctuary provides habitat for hundreds of species.

What role do humans play in keeping this habitat safe and healthy?