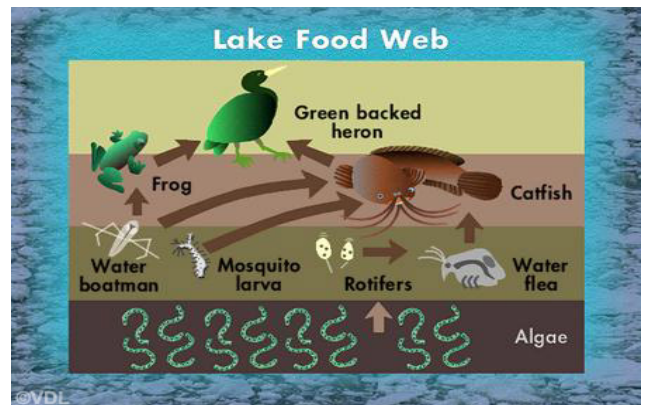
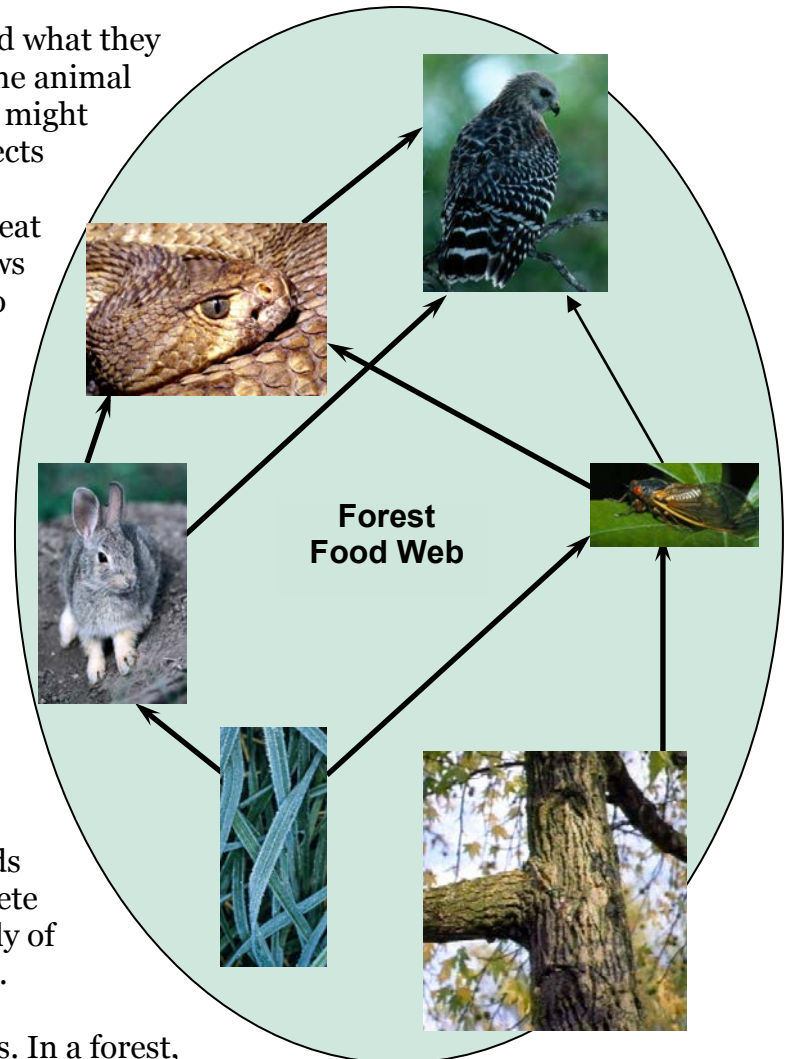


A **food web** shows all the animals in an area and what they eat. In a food web diagram, arrows point from one animal to the animal that eats it. A food web for a forest might show **producers** such as grasses and trees. Insects and rabbits might eat these producers. A snake might eat the insects and rabbits. A hawk might eat the insects, rabbits, and snakes. A food web shows that animals usually eat a variety of foods. It also shows that an animal may have more than one **predator**. For example, in this food web, hawks and snakes are both predators of rabbits.

All animals need food. Animals that eat the same food sometimes compete for it. For example, hawks might compete with other hawks for mice. However, hawks eat a variety of foods. They eat insects, rabbits, snakes, and mice. Eating a variety of foods can decrease competition. Hawks may also compete with other animals for food. For example, hawks might compete with snakes for rabbits.

Animals also compete for water and shelter. Birds compete for spaces to build nests. Rabbits compete for places to shelter their young. When the supply of water is low, animals compete for water to drink.

Plants compete for sunlight, water, and nutrients. In a forest, the trees that grow the tallest get the most sunlight. These trees will grow better than shorter trees. Trees with roots that spread out far under the soil will get more nutrients and water than other trees.



Look carefully at this lake food web. Which animals rely on more than one food source?