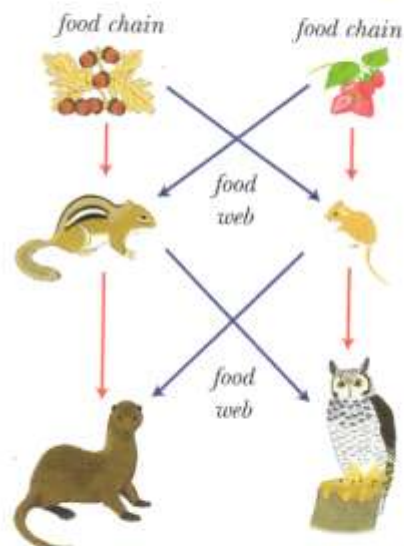


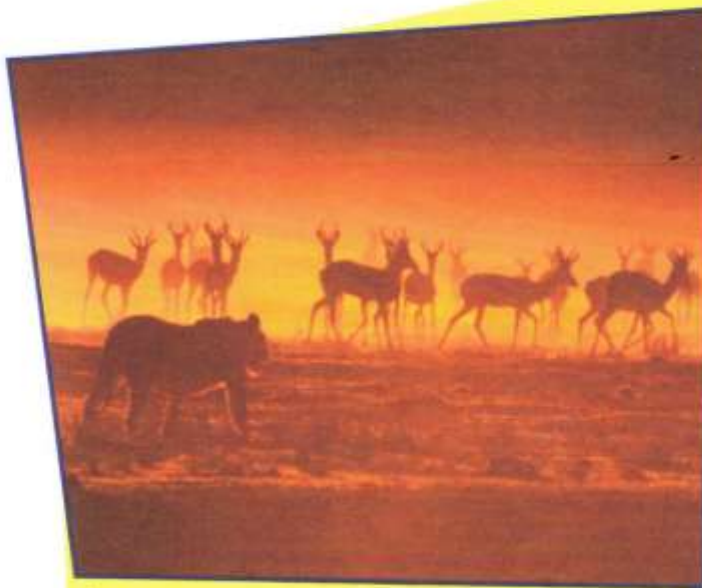
## Food chains connect

When an animal from one food chain eats a member of another food chain, two food chains connect. The diagram on the right shows two food chains connecting. The chipmunk and the mouse eat both nuts and berries. The mink and the owl might eat a chipmunk one day and a mouse the next. When food chains connect, the pattern is called a **food web**. Food webs usually include many plants and animals.



## Food webs and ecosystems

Each **ecosystem** on earth contains many food chains. An ecosystem includes all the plants, animals, and non-living natural things, such as sand, rocks, and soil, in a certain area. Deserts, forests, coral reefs in the ocean, and African grasslands called **savannahs** are examples of different ecosystems. All the living things in an ecosystem are connected in a food web, and they depend on one another for survival.



*In one African savannah food chain, springboks eat the grass, and the lion hunts springboks for food.*