Name_____

FOOD CHAINS

Directions: Read the information below.

Food chains are systems of living things that depend on each other for nourishment. For humans, our food chain starts with grass. When cows eat grass it gives them energy. When we eat cows, that energy is passed on to us. Humans are at the top of the food chain. Although we have to be safe around dangerous animals, we are not hunted as prey for any animal. In certain environments, other animals may be at the top of different parts of the food chain. For example, a hawk will be at the top of its food chain in its environment. Although it does not top humans, we do not eat hawks and they don't eat us. We share a spot at the top.

Humans do not create their own energy — we must get it from the food we eat. The animals we eat get their energy from prey. Energy travels throughout the food chain such that it goes from the very bottom clear to the top. In an ocean, fish eat phytoplankton which gives them energy. Seals don't eat phytoplankton, but they do eat fish which have the energy from the phytoplankton. This gives the seals energy.

Directions: Answer the questions below.

1. What happened in your class game? Describe it in terms of a food chain.
2. Draw a food chain of the simulation.
3. Think of a population that suffered. What happened that affected it negatively?
4. Which species were last to be affected and why?