



Make your own energy pyramid model by following the instructions on the next page.



A **food chain** shows how each living thing gets its food. Some animals eat plants and some animals eat other animals. For example, a simple food chain links the trees & shrubs, the giraffes (that eat trees & shrubs), and the lions (that eat the giraffes). Each link in this chain is food for the next link. A food chain always starts with plant life and ends with an animal.

The **energy pyramid** above shows many trees & shrubs providing food and energy to giraffes. As you move up, there are fewer giraffes than trees & shrubs and even fewer lions than giraffes. A large mass of living things at the base is required to support a few at the top ... many herbivores (plant eaters) are needed to support a few carnivores (meat eaters).

### Animal footprints

Like humans animals leave footprints behind when they walk. When in the bush we can often tell what animal has been in an area by the tracks that it leaves behind. See how good a detective you are by completing the exercise called 'Who was here?'...

### Fast facts

- Cheetahs are the fastest land animals over short distances. They can reach speeds of nearly 100km/hr.
- The lion is the largest African cat. A fully grown male lion can weigh up to 250kg.
- The African elephant is the largest land mammal weighing in at 8 tons. The Blue Whale however is a staggering 206 tons (more than 25x heavier than the elephant – now that's BIG!).