



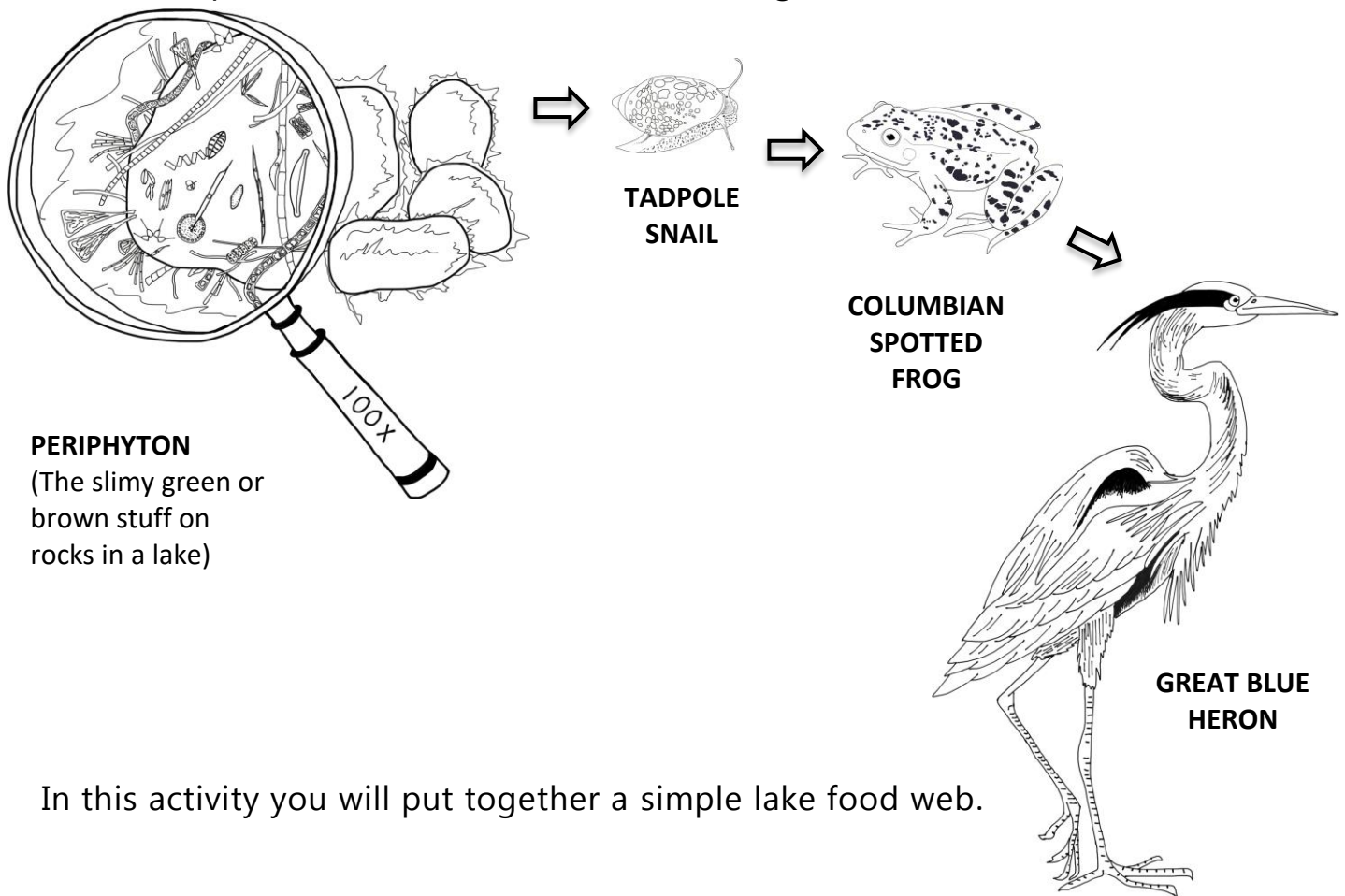
## Understanding Food Chain & Food Webs

A **food chain** represents the food energy that flows through an **ecosystem**. **Food webs** are interconnected food chains.

The sun provides energy for the **producers (plants)** to make their own food through photosynthesis. The producers are the base of the food chain and are eaten by many **organisms**.

A **consumer** is an organism that cannot make its own food. **Herbivores** are consumers that eat plants. **Omnivores** are consumers that eat plants and animals. **Carnivores** are consumers that eat other animals.

Below is a diagram of a food chain often found in N.W. Montana. Notice the arrows are pointed to the animal that is receiving the food.



In this activity you will put together a simple lake food web.