FOOD WEB CHALLENGE:

Food webs are simplified maps of the relationships between Consumers and Producers in an Ecosystem. Look at the food web below of common wildlife you’d find in the Adirondacks. Arrows point from the food source to the consumer. On the next page, DESCRIBE what you think would happen in each of these scenarios:

What would happen to the Food Web if:

➔ The coyote is absent.
➔ The frog is absent.
➔ The crawfish is absent.
➔ The birch tree is absent

As you write your predictions think about:
- The effect the change will have on the populations of each plant and animal.
- Which animals are directly and indirectly affected by each change.
- What effect does the absence of an Apex Predator or Primary Producer have on the entire food web.
- Why is it important for ecosystems to be diverse?
Glossary:

**Primary Producer:** An organism that uses energy from the environment to make food. (Plants are producers)

**Consumer:** An organism that eats other organisms, either producers or consumers, for energy (Animals are consumers)

**Apex Predator:** A predator at the top of a food chain or web, they are not the natural prey to any other organism.