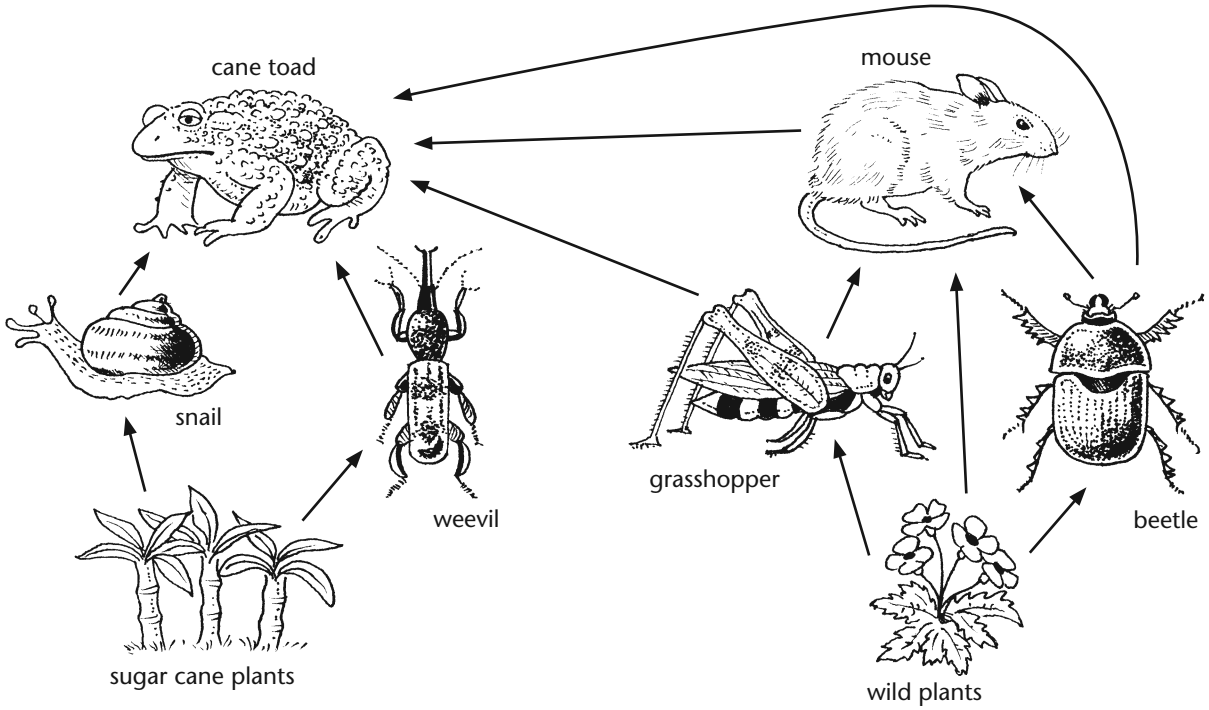
9Cd(5) Biological control

Biological control involves using natural predators rather than chemical pesticides to reduce the numbers of pests. The predator is called a **biological control agent**. The Eden Project in Cornwall consists of a range of huge greenhouses, in which many plants from around the world are displayed. They use 33 different animals to control pests, including birds and lizards.



Farmers in Australia grow sugar cane plants as a crop. This food web shows some of the information needed if they are to decide on using biological control to reduce the number of pests. The cane toad is not native to Australia but some farmers think that it might be a useful biological control agent.

1 Suggest a reason a farmer might have for using biological control instead of chemical pesticides.

2 From the food web name two pests that the farmers might want to kill.

3 Suggest a reason why the cane toad might be an effective way of controlling pests.

4 Explain why using the cane toad as a biological control agent might be a disaster for the wider environment.

5 Imagine that you are responsible for suggesting to farmers a suitable biological control agent in their fight to reduce the number of pests. Outline the research you would need to carry out before you could make a sensible suggestion.

I CAN... • weigh up the advantages and disadvantages of biological control.