

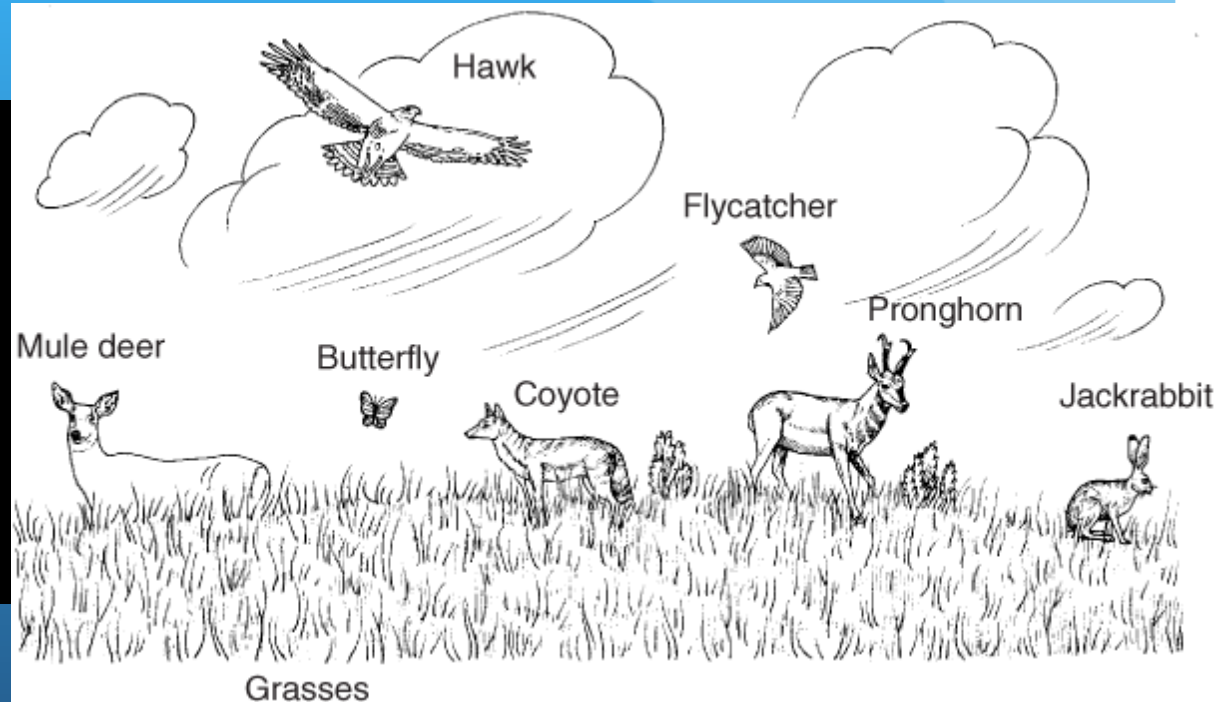
Energy Roles In Ecosystems

An organisms role in an ecosystem may be that of :

1. Producers

2. Consumers

3. Decomposers



Producers

- Energy first enters most ecosystems as sunlight
- Organisms that carry out photosynthesis are called autotrophs
- Another word for an organism that makes it's own food is called a PRODUCER.



Consumers



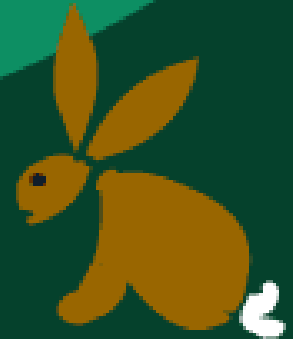
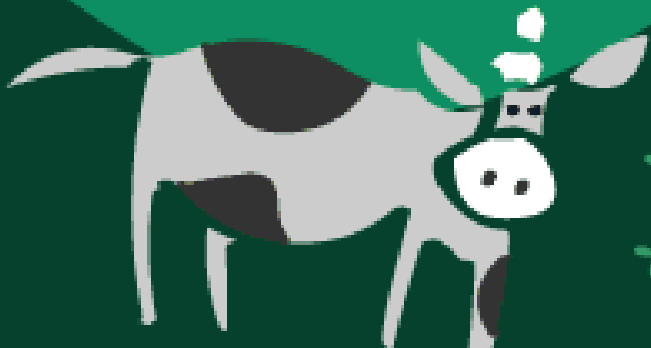
- Cannot make their own food and are called heterotrophs and they depend on producers for food.
- Another word for an organism that gets energy by feeding on another organism is called a CONSUMER.
- Consumers are classified by what they eat.
 - A. Herbivores
 - B. Carnivores
 - C. Omnivores

HERBIVORES

These are animals that eat mainly plants.

This includes leaves, grass, flowers, seeds, roots, fruits, bark, pollen and much more.

Some herbivores are:
deer horses rabbits
cows bees sheep
grasshoppers



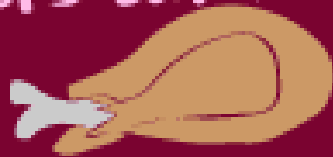


CARNIVORES

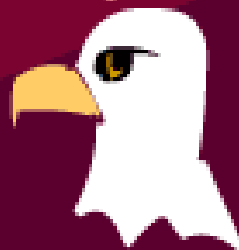


These are animals that eat mainly meat.
This includes insects and all animals.

Some carnivores are:



- felines (lions, tigers & all cats)
- birds of prey (eagles, hawks, owls etc.)
- sharks
- frogs
- spiders





OMNIVORES

These are animals able to eat plants AND animals.

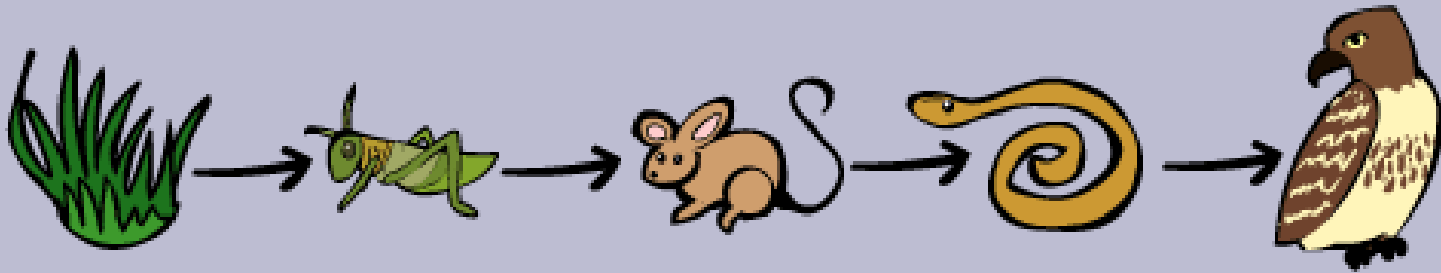
Some omnivores are:

- humans
- most bears
- racoons
- most primates (apes & monkeys)
- seagulls & other birds



- 1st level consumer = eats a producer
- 2nd level consumer = eats the 1st level consumer
- 3rd level consumer = eats the 2nd level consumer

Who is the 1st level consumer?



Who is the 2nd level consumer?

3rd level consumer?

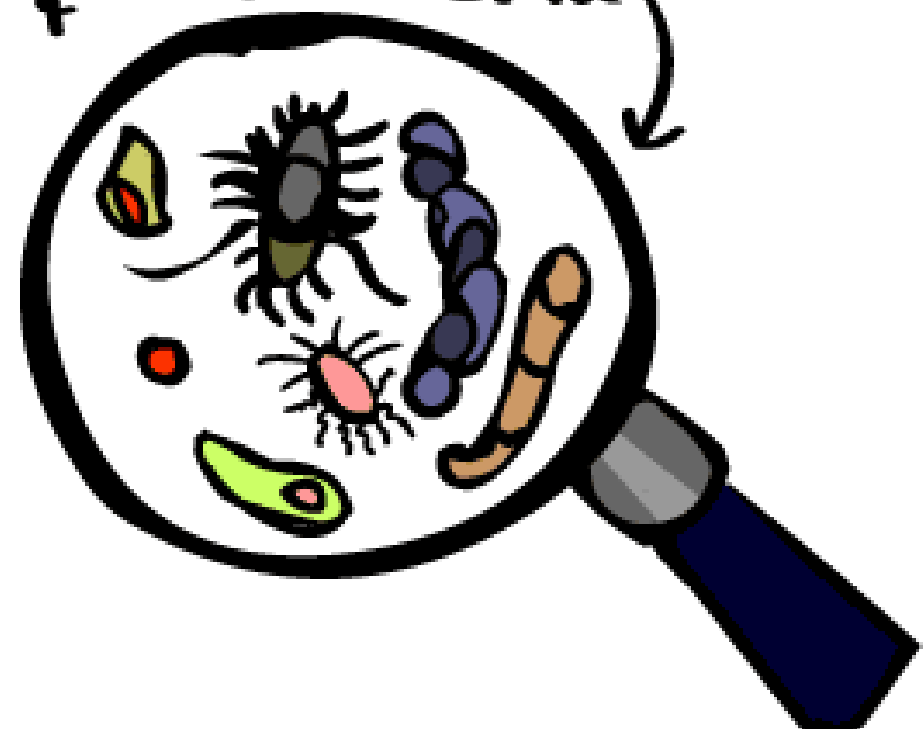
4th level consumer?

DECOMPOSERS

They consume (eat) dead plants & animals and decomposes them - reduces them to simpler forms of matter.

PRIMARY DECOMPOSERS

Fungi & Bacteria



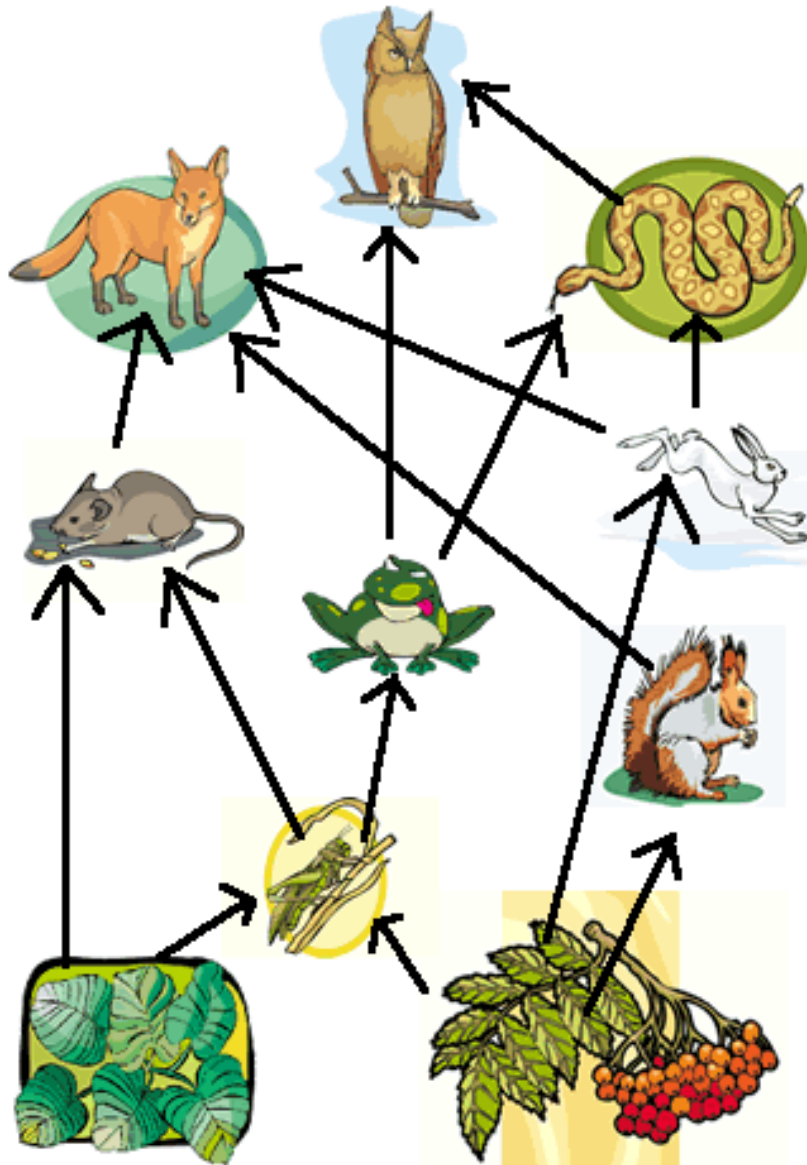
Food Chains

A **FOOD CHAIN** is a series of events in which one organism eats another and obtains energy

A food chain shows one possible path along which energy can move through an ecosystem



Food Webs

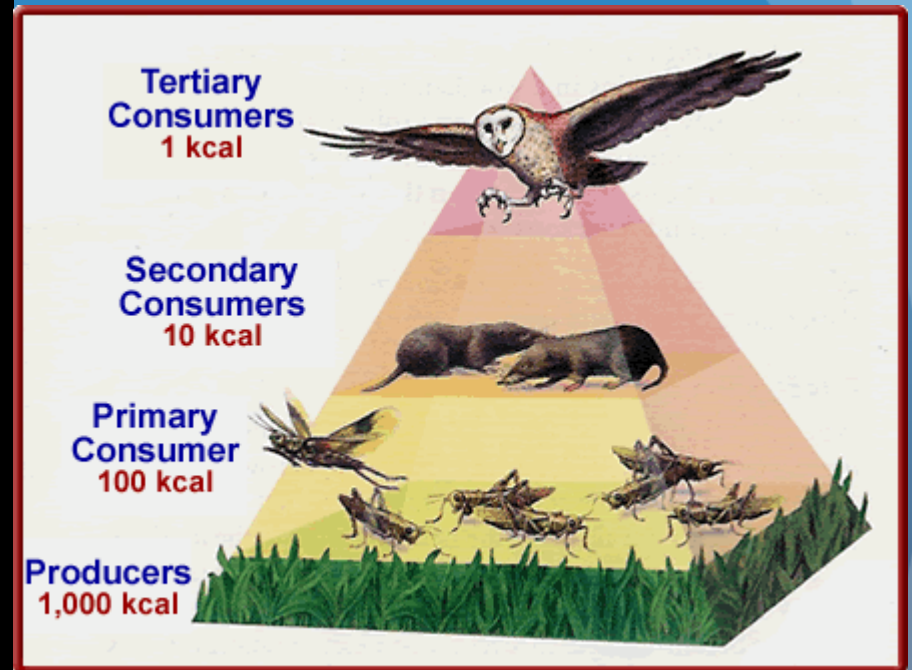


Shows many overlapping food chains with in an ecosystem

Energy Pyramids

- A diagram called an **ENERGY PYRAMID** shows the amount of energy that moves from one feeding level to another in a food web
- Only about 10 percent of the energy contained in one level of a food web is transferred to the next, higher, level.

When an organism in an ecosystem eats food, it obtains energy.



<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/content/animals/kidscorner/foodchain/foodchain.htm>