

Ecosystems & Food Chains

Vocabulary:

Aquatic: dealing with water habitats such as ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, streams, and oceans

Carnivore: an organism that eats only meat

Community: a group of plants, animals and other organisms that live together in the same place, depending on each other in some way

Consumers: an organism that eats another organism (it cannot make its own food)

Decomposer: an organism that breaks down dead animal and plant matter

Ecosystem: groups of living and nonliving things interacting with one another

Food Chain: shows a food relationship among plants and animals in a specific ecosystem

Habitat: the place where an organism lives (Ex. The habitat of a bird is a tree.)

Herbivore: an organism that eats only plants

Interdependency: more than one organism or nonliving thing depending on one another

Organisms: living things

Population: a group of the same species that lives in the same area (Example: all of the white-tailed deer in a forest)

Omnivore: an organism that eats both plants and animals

Predator: animals that hunt other animals for their food

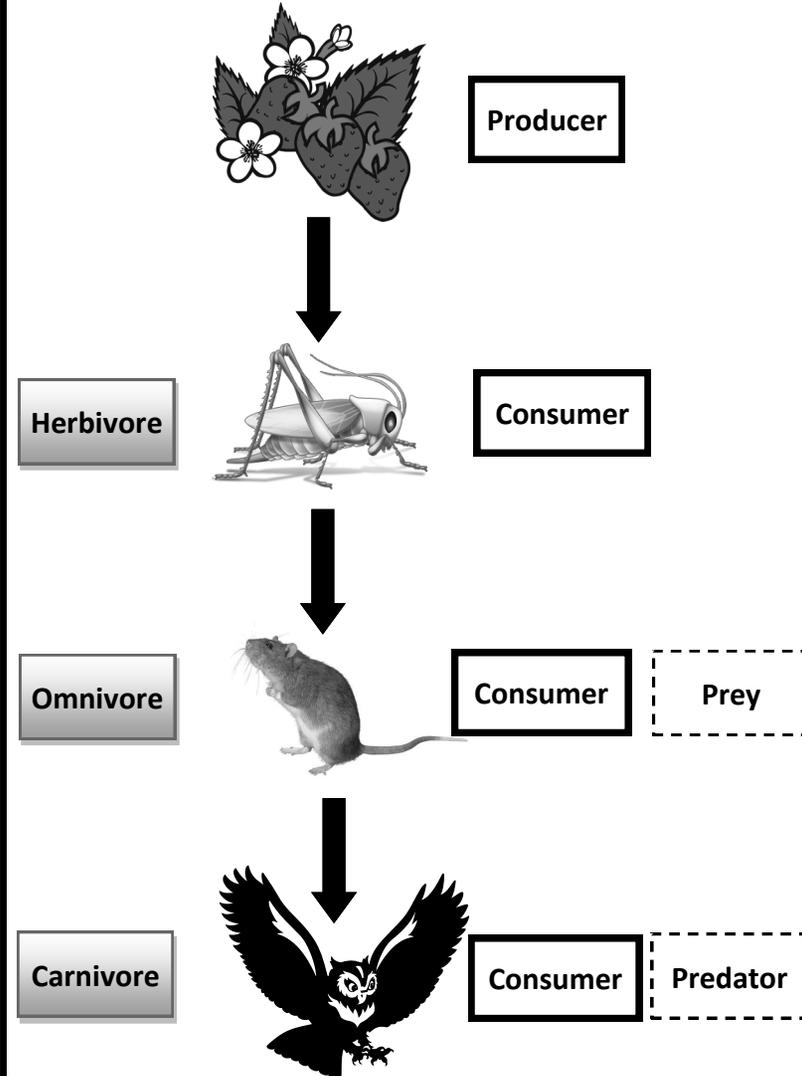
Prey: animals that are hunted by another animal for food

Producer: an organism that can make its own food (green plants)

Scavenger: animals that eat dead animals (Ex. Buzzard)

Terrestrial: dealing with dry-land habitats such as desert, grasslands, rainforests, and forests

A Terrestrial Food Chain



	Desert	Oceans	Rain Forest	Grasslands	Forest	Rivers and Streams	Ponds and Lakes	Marshes and Swamps
Main Features	Gets less than 10 inches of rain per year	Salt water	Found near the equator, very warm climate and lots of rain	Fertile soil, has one rainy season and is very dry the rest	Found all over the globe, many trees	Fresh water	Fresh water	Fresh water
Types of Animals	Rabbits, hawks, owls, snakes, lizards	Sharks, fish, whales	Snakes, lizards, frogs, insects, fish, birds, mammals, jaguars	Kangaroos, elephants, lions, wolves, wildcats, field mice, etc.	insects, birds, squirrels, mice, owls, hawks, deer, fox	Frogs, turtles, ducks, otters, fish, insects, salamanders, snails	Ducks, turtles, newts, snails, blackbirds, frogs, beavers	Alligators, opossums, turtles, cranes, frogs, snakes, crayfish, deer, etc.
Types of Plants	Yuccas, Joshua trees, cacti	Coral, seaweed	Many different plants, tall trees create a canopy, shrubs, palms, mosses, ferns	Can survive with very little water, grasses and flowering trees. Very few trees can survive the dry climate.	Deciduous -lose their leaves like maples, oaks, beach, birch Coniferous -evergreen and never lose their leaves	Mosses, algae, cattails, reeds, grasses	Water lilies, duckweed, algae, grasses	Cypress trees, cattails, duckweed, willow, water mint, bog bean
Picture			