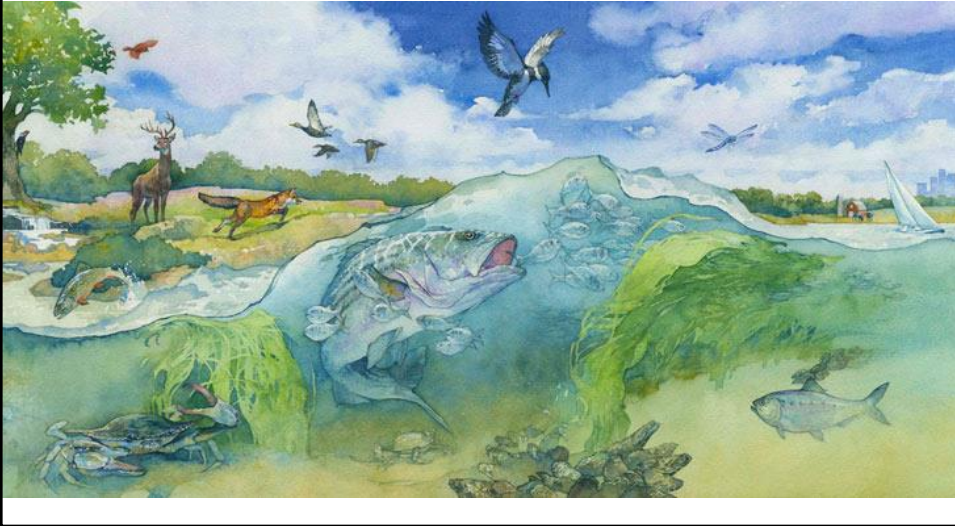


# Unit A: Interactions and Ecosystems

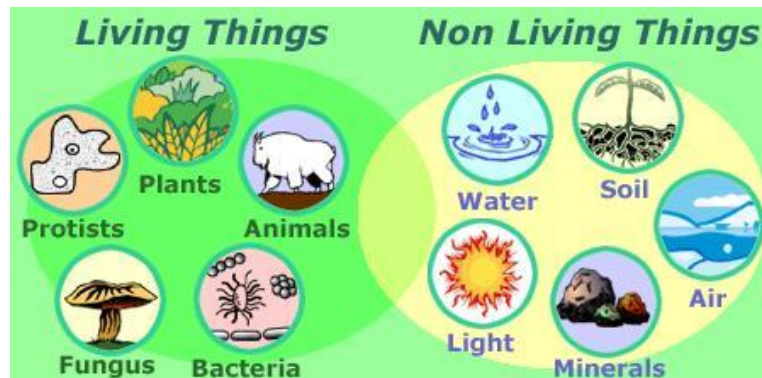


## Topic 4: How Organisms Interact



## A. Introduction

1. Biotic: living parts of an ecosystem
2. Abiotic: non-living parts of an ecosystem



## B. The Roles of Organisms in an Ecosystem

1. Niche: the role an organism plays in it's ecosystem
  - a) You must know:
    - i. What it eats
    - ii. Where it lives
    - iii. How it interacts



2. Niche includes:

- a) Producers: produce food energy for themselves & others



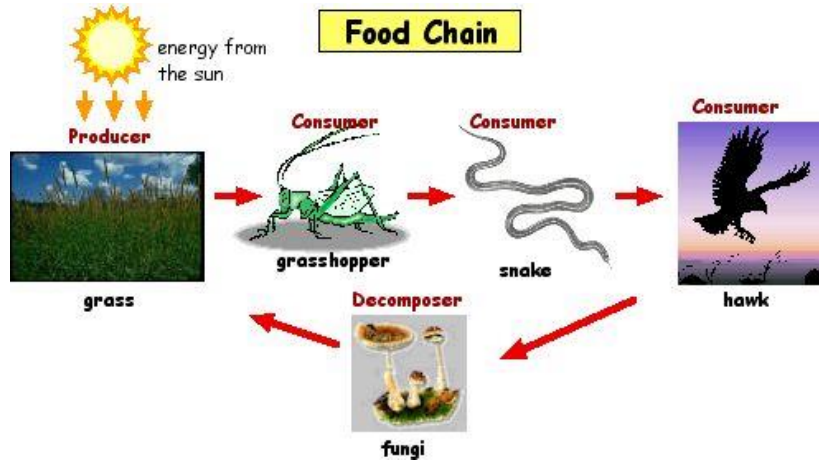
- b) Consumers: consume food made by producers

- i. Herbivores - eat producers (plants)
- ii. Carnivores - eat other consumers
- iii. Omnivores - eat both producers and consumers

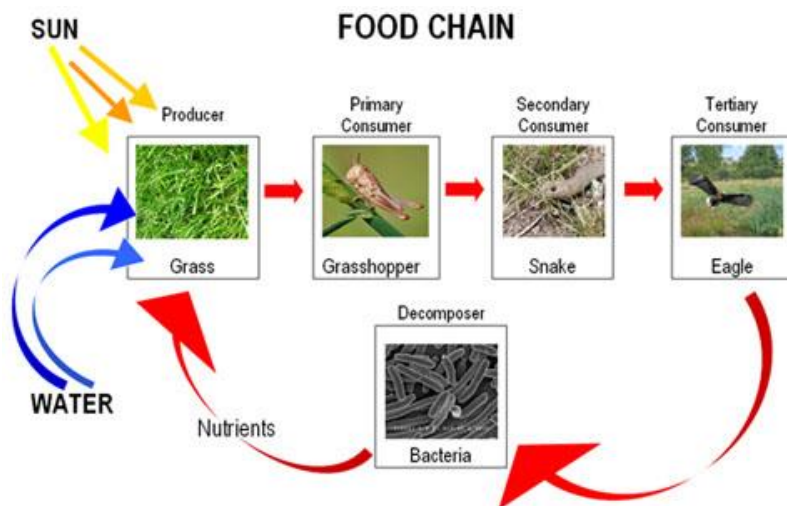


## C. Food Chains

1. A model that shows how energy stored in food passes from organism to organism

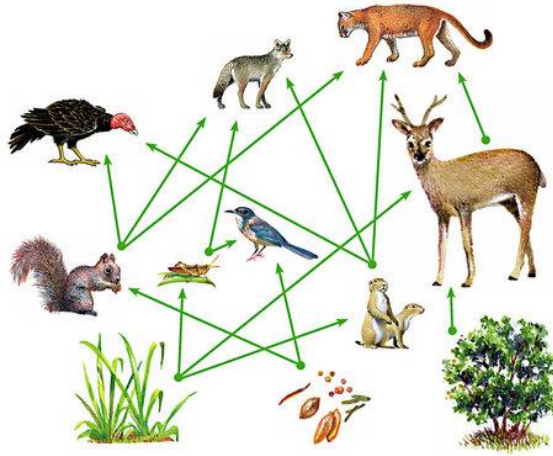


2. Energy Flow: starts with sun, passes from one organism to the next.



## D. Food Webs

1. Many food chains, showing interrelationships between producers and consumers.



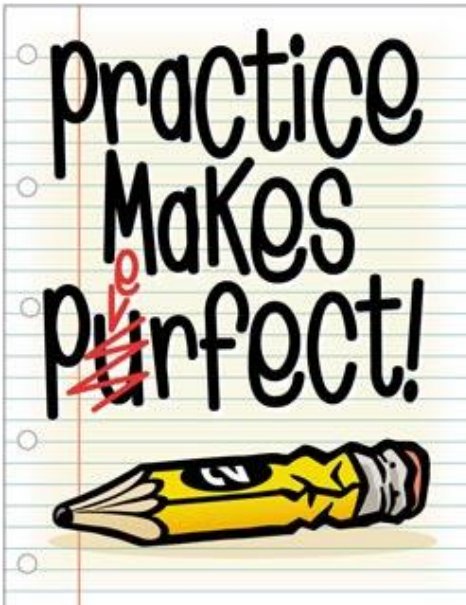
## E. Pyramid of Numbers

1. The size of each level tells us the number of organisms at each level.



## F. The Clean-Up Squad: Scavengers & Decomposers

1. Scavengers: organisms that feed on dead or decaying plant & animal matter
2. Decomposers: do not actually eat dead material. They grow on or in, absorbing the nutrients



**PRACTICE:**

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