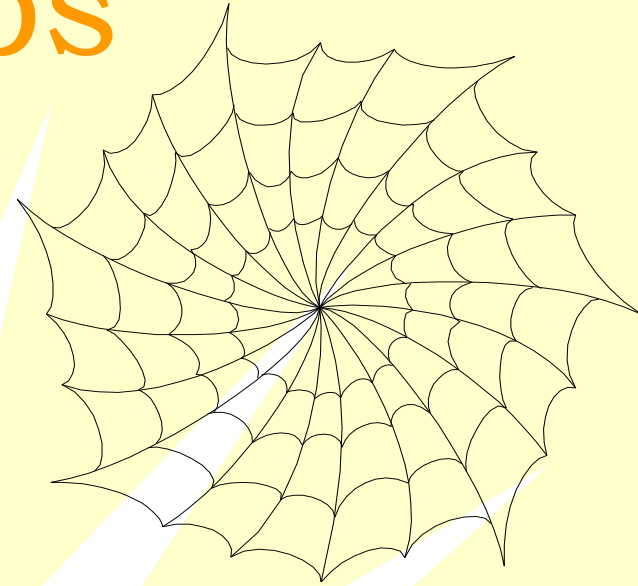


Food Chains and Food Webs

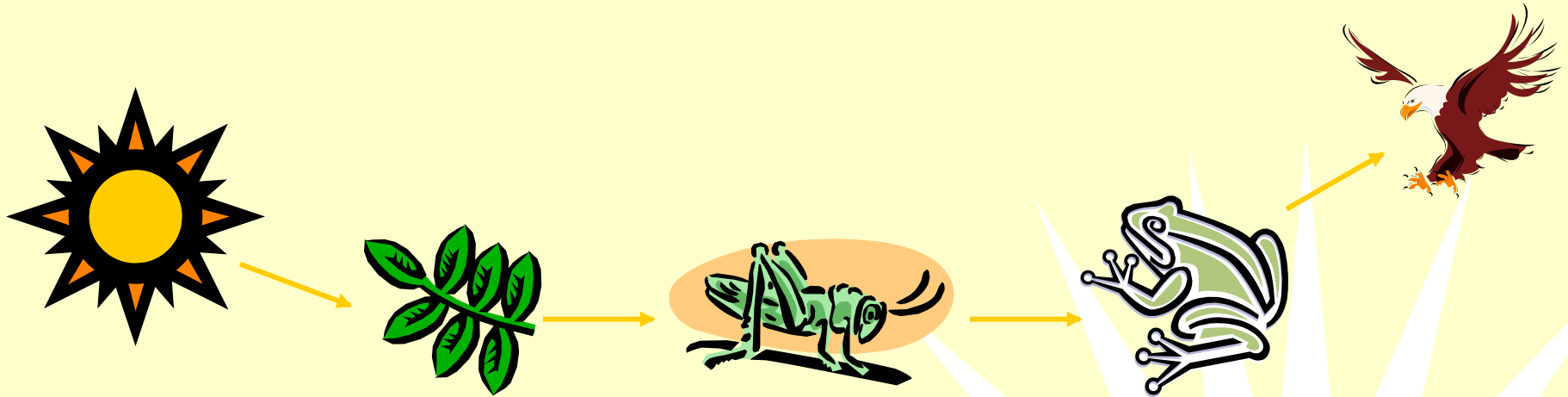


Science SOL 3.5

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What is a Food Chain?

⦿ A food chain is the path by which energy passes from one living thing to another.



What's in a Food Chain?

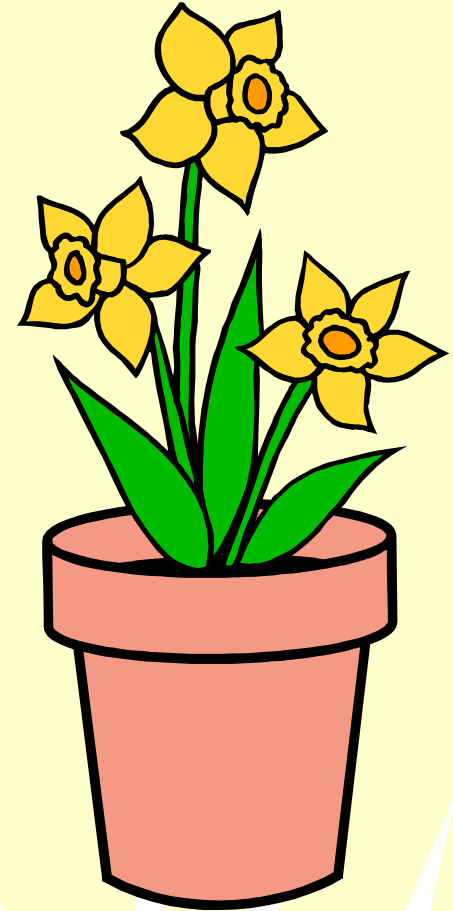
⊗ Producers

⊗ Consumers

⊗ Decomposers

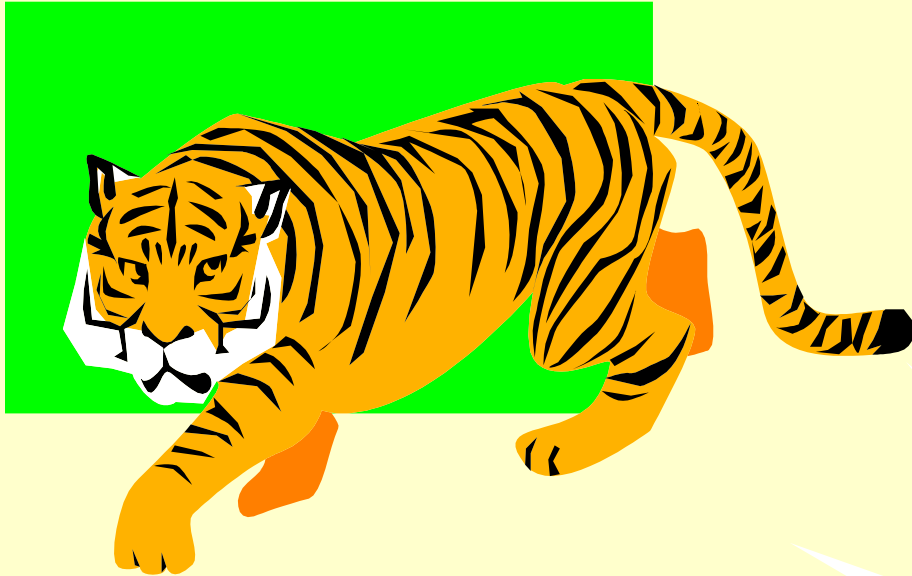
Producers

- ⊗ Producers make their own food through photosynthesis
- ⊗ Green plants use energy from the sun to make food
- ⊗ Producers are on



Consumers

- ⦿ Consumers hunt, gather, and store food because they cannot make their own.



Decomposers

A decomposer is a consumer that breaks down the tissue of a dead organism

They use the nutrients from the dead tissue as food

What decomposers don't use becomes part of the soil

Examples include: mushrooms and bacteria



Three Types of Consumers

☼ Herbivores

☼ Carnivores

☼ Omnivores

Herbivores

☼ Animals who eat plants

such as:

–grasshoppers

–rabbits

–squirrels

–deer

–pandas



Carnivores

☼ Animals who only eat other animals such as:

- tigers
- lions
- hawks
- wolves
- cougars



Omnivores

⊗ Animals who eat both plants and animals such as:

– humans

– bears

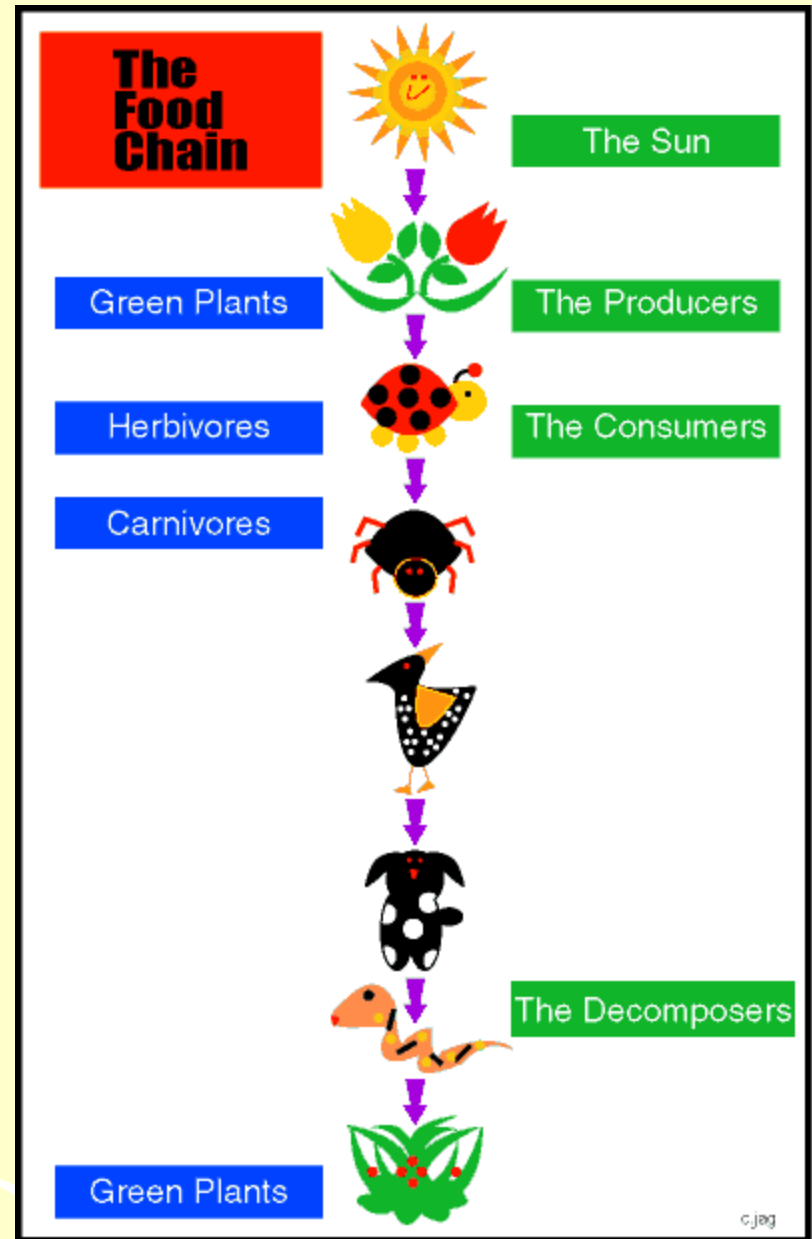


Decomposers

- ⊗ Microorganisms that are able to break down large molecules into smaller parts
- ⊗ Decomposers return the nutrients that are in a living thing to the soil

Let's Look at a Food Chain

⦿ A food chain is a simplified way to look at the energy that passes from producers to consumers.



Types of Food Chains

- ⊗ Aquatic- Water-related food chains with sea plants and animals
- ⊗ Terrestrial- Land-related food chains with land plants and animals

Predator & Prey

- ⊗ Predator- An animal that captures and eats other animals
- ⊗ Prey- The animal that is captured and eaten

What is a Food Web?

- ⊗ A more realistic way of looking at the relationship of plants and animals in an environment
- ⊗ Several food chains linked together
- ⊗ A predator from one food chain may be linked to the prey of another food chain

Food Webs

⊗ How many food chains can you make from this food web?

