

5th Grade Life Science
Food Webs Vocabulary

1. Decomposer – an organism that consumes dead or decayed nonliving biomass without need for internal digestion [example: fungi (mushroom, mold)]
2. Ecosystem – all of the living and nonliving things in an area and the interactions among them (terrestrial ecosystems and aquatic ecosystems)
3. Niche – the role an organism plays in the ecosystem
4. Producer – an organism that makes its own food
5. Consumer – an organism that gets energy from eating another organism
6. Herbivore – consumers that eat only plants
7. Carnivores – consumers that eat only animals
8. Omnivore – consumers that eat both plants and animals
9. Food Chain – a path of energy transfer from one organism to another
10. Food Web – an interconnected set of food chains
11. Energy Transfer – the transfer of energy from one object or material to another or one form to another
12. Environment – the space and all the living and nonliving things around an organism
13. Population – all of the interacting members of species in a single area
14. Thrive – to grow well or strong

Other important words you need to know:

- Biotic – living parts of an ecosystem
- Abiotic – nonliving parts of an ecosystem
- Primary Consumer – herbivores that eat plants
- Secondary Consumer – carnivores that eat herbivores
- Tertiary Consumer – carnivores that eat carnivores

