## Ecology Vocabulary

Vocabulary Concept	Definition Definition	Visual Representation or Analogy
Food Chain	A series of events that shows the flow of energy as one organism eats another and obtains energy.	Food Chains  grass (primary consumer) (secondary consumer) (producer) (decomposers) (apex predator)
Food Web	A pattern of overlapping food chains in an ecosystem.	ladybird moth larva vole
Consumer	An organism that obtains energy by feeding on other organisms.	Heterotrophs.
Heterotroph	"Hetero - other" "Troph- feeder" - these organisms consume or eat their food.	Heterotrophs (a.h.a. "ansumers")-must eat their food.
Producer	An organism that obtains energy by making its own food.	CA utalmanba
Autotroph	"Auto - self" "Troph -feeder" - these organisms make their own food.	(a.k.a. "producers") make their own food  Ca  Energy  (a.c. a. "producers") make their own food  Ca  Energy
Energy Pyramid	A graphical model that shows the flow of energy from one trophic level to the next.	Tertiary Consumer Secondary Consumer Primary Consumer  Sun
Abiotic Factor		

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	"A - without" "Bio- life" - these are factors that are not living (i.e. water, soil, temperature, etc.)		
Biotic Factor	"Bio - life" - these are factors that are living (i.e., plants and animals)		
Organism	A single living thing.	Individual	
Population	A group of the same species living in a given area at a given period.	Population	
Community	A group of multiple species interacting with each other in a given location.	Community	
Ecosystem	A system of both living and non- living factors in an area functioning as a unit.	Ecosy	ystem

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Biosphere	The living portion of the Earth.	Biosphere
Herbivore	A consumer that eats only plants.	Herbi vore-eat only plants  I'm a vegetarian!  Christy Dion Rolls
Carnivore	A consumer that eats only animals.	Carnivore- eat only animals  Beware I can eat you!  Gehriety Dien 2015
Omnivore	A consumer that eats both plants and animals.	Omnivore-eat plants & animals  I like it all!  © Christy Dian 2015
Decomposer	An organism that breaks down chemicals from wastes and dead organisms then returns materials to the soil and water.	Decomposers - break down dead organic matter.  Fungi lif you are dead, you are invited to dipner!  Bacteria Christy Dion 2005
Scavenger	Feeds on both dead plants and animals.	

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The organism that does the		
killing in a predation interaction.		
An organism that is killed and		
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A close relationship between two organisms where one benefits and the other is harmed.		
A close relationship between organisms in which one species benefits and the other is neither helped/harmed		
A close relationship between two species in which two organisms benefit.		
An organism that benefits by living on or in a host		
The organism that a parasite or virus lives in or on.		
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