

5th Grade Life Science

Food Webs Vocabulary

1. Environment – the space and all the living and nonliving things around an organism
2. Ecosystem – all of the living and nonliving things in an area and the interactions among them (terrestrial ecosystems: land; aquatic ecosystems: water)
3. Biome – a large naturally occurring community of plants and animals occupying a major habitat, (example: rain forest or tundra)
4. Estuary – a biome where salt water from oceans mixes with freshwater from rivers along the coast
5. Decomposer – an organism that consumes dead or decayed nonliving biomass without need for internal digestion (fungi: mushroom, mold)
6. Producer – an organism that makes its own food
7. Consumer – an organism that gets energy from eating another organism
8. Herbivore – consumers that eat only plants
9. Carnivores – consumers that eat only animals
10. Omnivore – consumers that eat both plants and animals
11. Food Chain – a path of energy transfer from one organism to another
12. Food Web – an interconnected set of food chains
13. Thrive – to grow well or strong
14. Invasive Species – a non-native plant or animal that has been introduced into an environment and negatively impacts the environment's ecosystem

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

