

Vocabulary



carnivore an animal that eats only other animals

Wolves, hawks, rattlesnakes, preying mantises, and dragonflies are carnivores.

consumer an organism that gets energy by eating other organisms

All living things that cannot make their own food are consumers.

decomposer an organism that gets energy by feeding on dead organisms and wastes

Decomposers return nutrients to the environment when they break down dead material.

food chain the path of food energy from one organism to another in an ecosystem

One example of a food chain is plant → fish → bear.

food web overlapping food chains with different pathways for the flow of food energy in an ecosystem

Most animals in nature eat several kinds of food and are themselves food for more than one kind of predator.

herbivore an animal that eats only plants or plant products

Herbivores are the second organism in a food chain.

omnivore an animal that eats both plants and animals

Omnivores are usually in the middle or at the end of a food chain.

producer an organism that makes its own food

Plants and algae are producers. They contain chlorophyll and are green. Producers are the source of matter and energy in food chains.