Model Energy Flow

Procedure

1. Hypothesize  Look at the photo card of living things. It includes grass, zebras, and a lion. Form a hypothesis about how each organism obtains its energy. Write your hypothesis on the lines below.

2. Use Models  In an ecosystem, energy from food passes from one organism to another. Producers get their energy from the Sun. Which organisms in the photo are producers? Draw the producers in the bottom level of the chart below.

![Diagram of energy flow with producers at the bottom level.]
3. **Use Numbers**  Producers get 100 units of energy from the Sun. Write the number of units on the chart. Note that producers use 90 percent of these units for their own life processes.

4. **Use Models**  Which consumers eat the producers? Draw the consumers in the next level of the chart. Record the amount of energy available to them. They will use 90 percent of this energy.

5. **Use Models**  Which consumer eats other consumers? Draw this consumer in the top level of the chart. This consumer also uses 90 percent of the remaining units of energy for its life processes.

**Conclusion**

**Write the answers to the questions.**

1. **Use Numbers**  How much energy is left for the living things that eat the producers? How much is left for the last consumer?

2. **Infer**  Why aren’t there more levels in the chart?

**Investigate More!**

**Research**  The model you used is called an energy pyramid. Use the Internet or library to research energy pyramids. What happens to energy as it passes from one living to another?