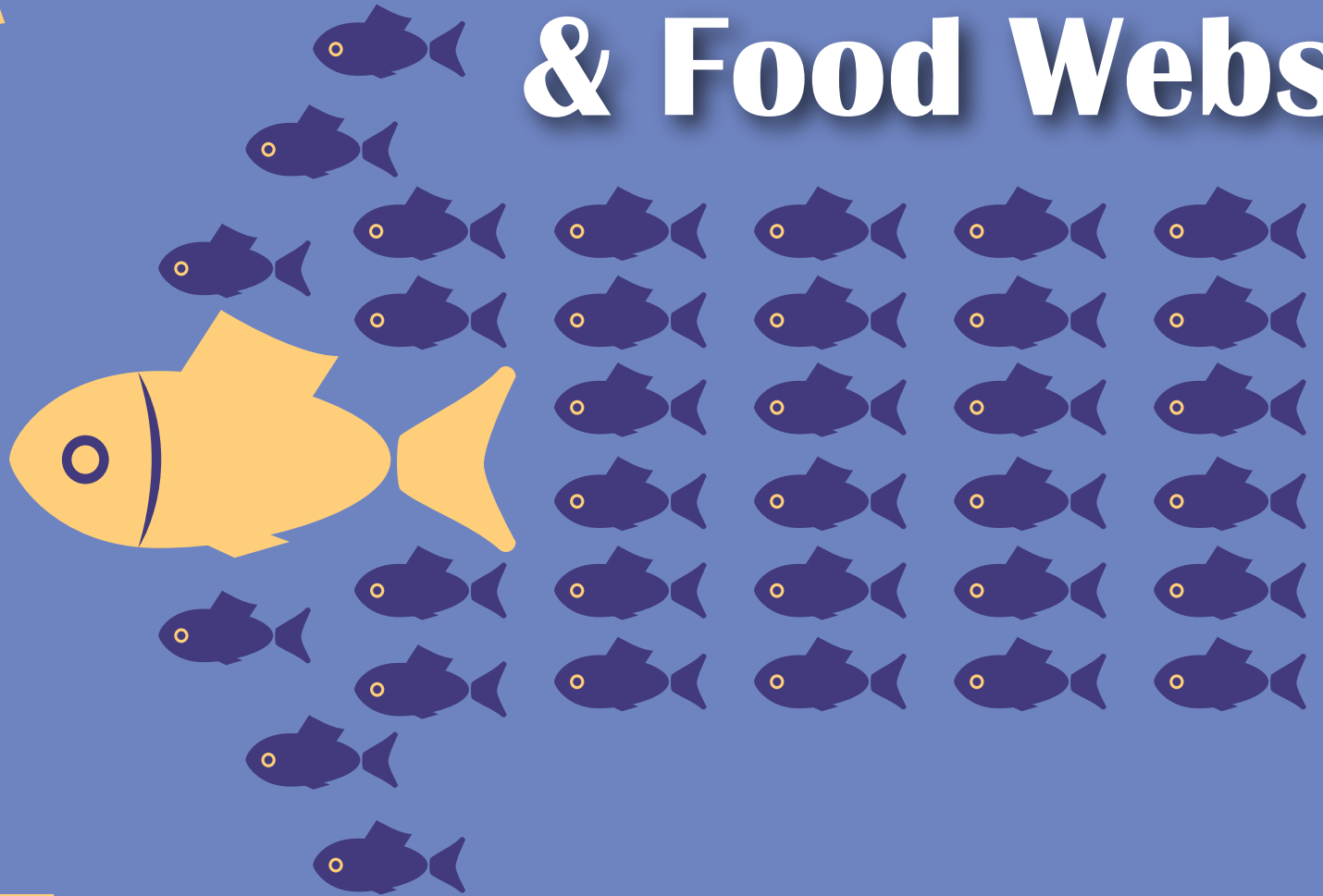
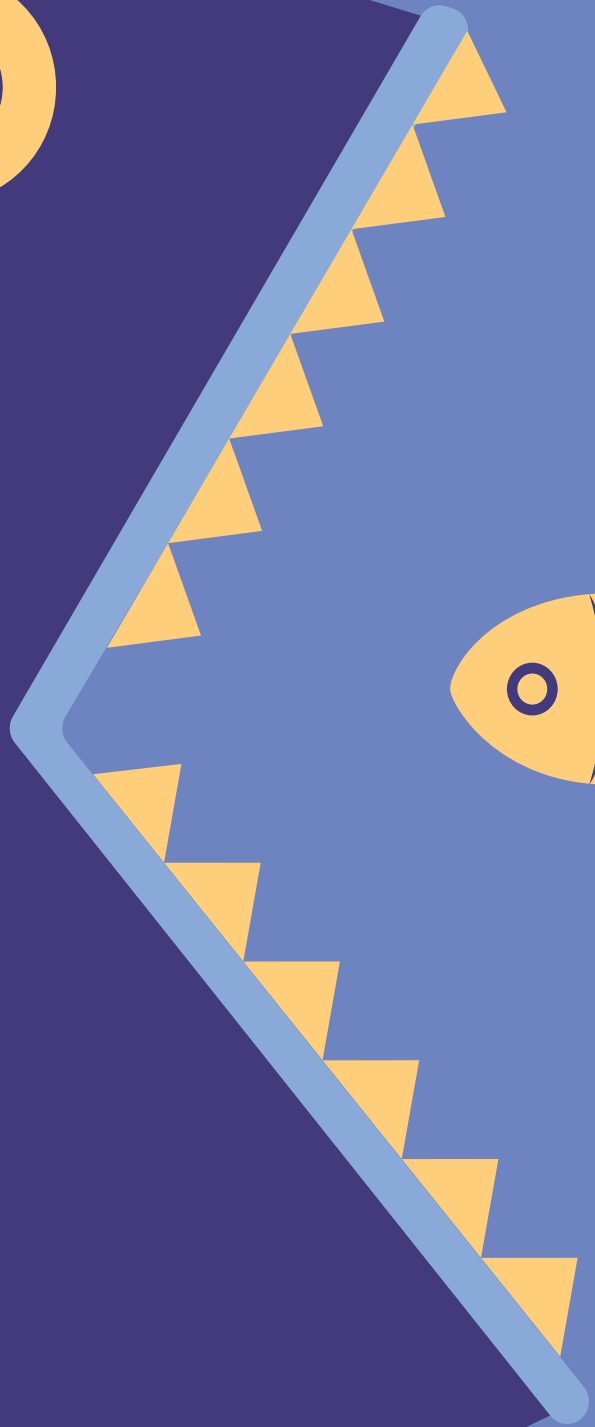




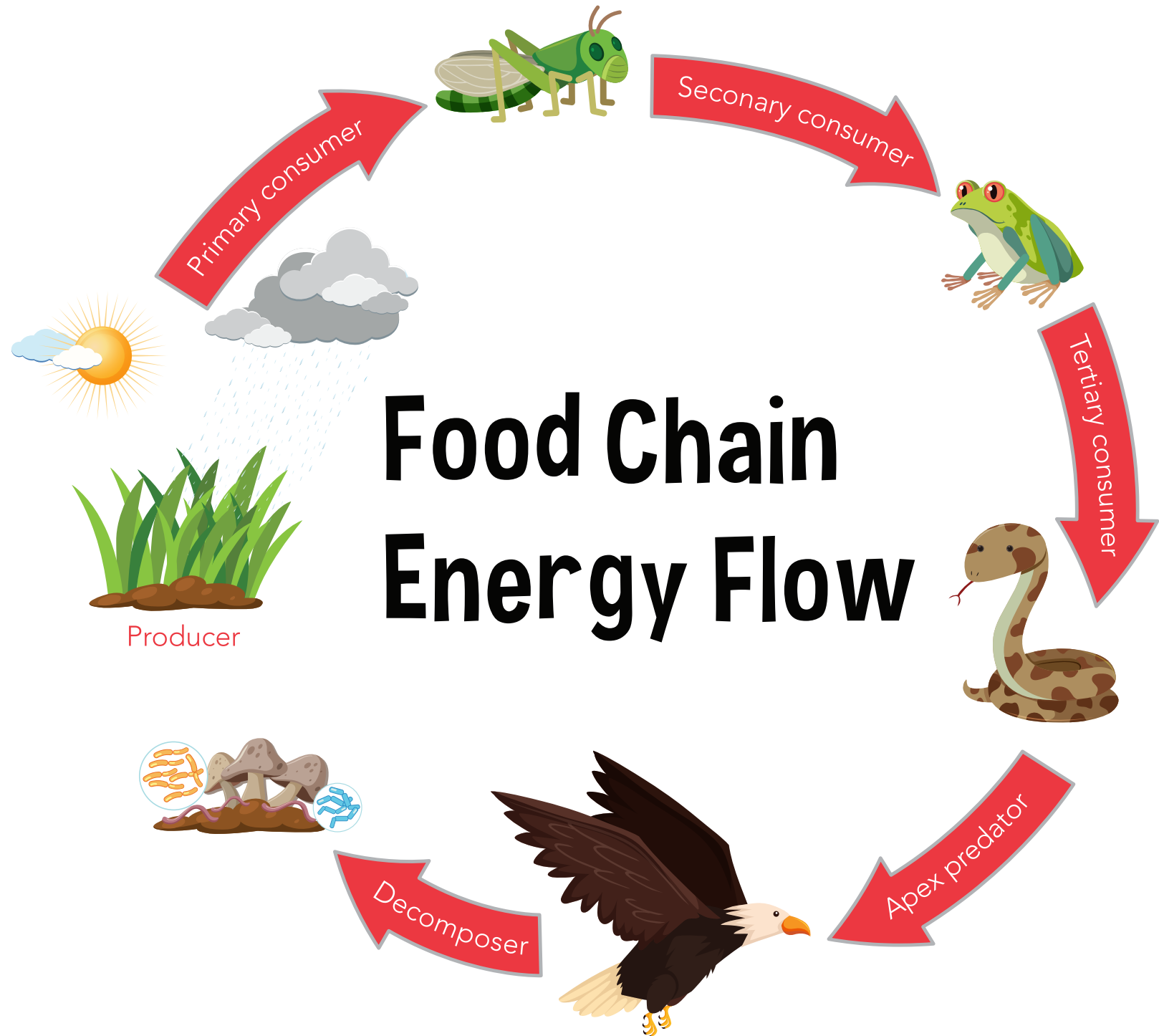
Food Chains & Food Webs



Food Chains

The living things in an ecosystem are part of multiple food chains.

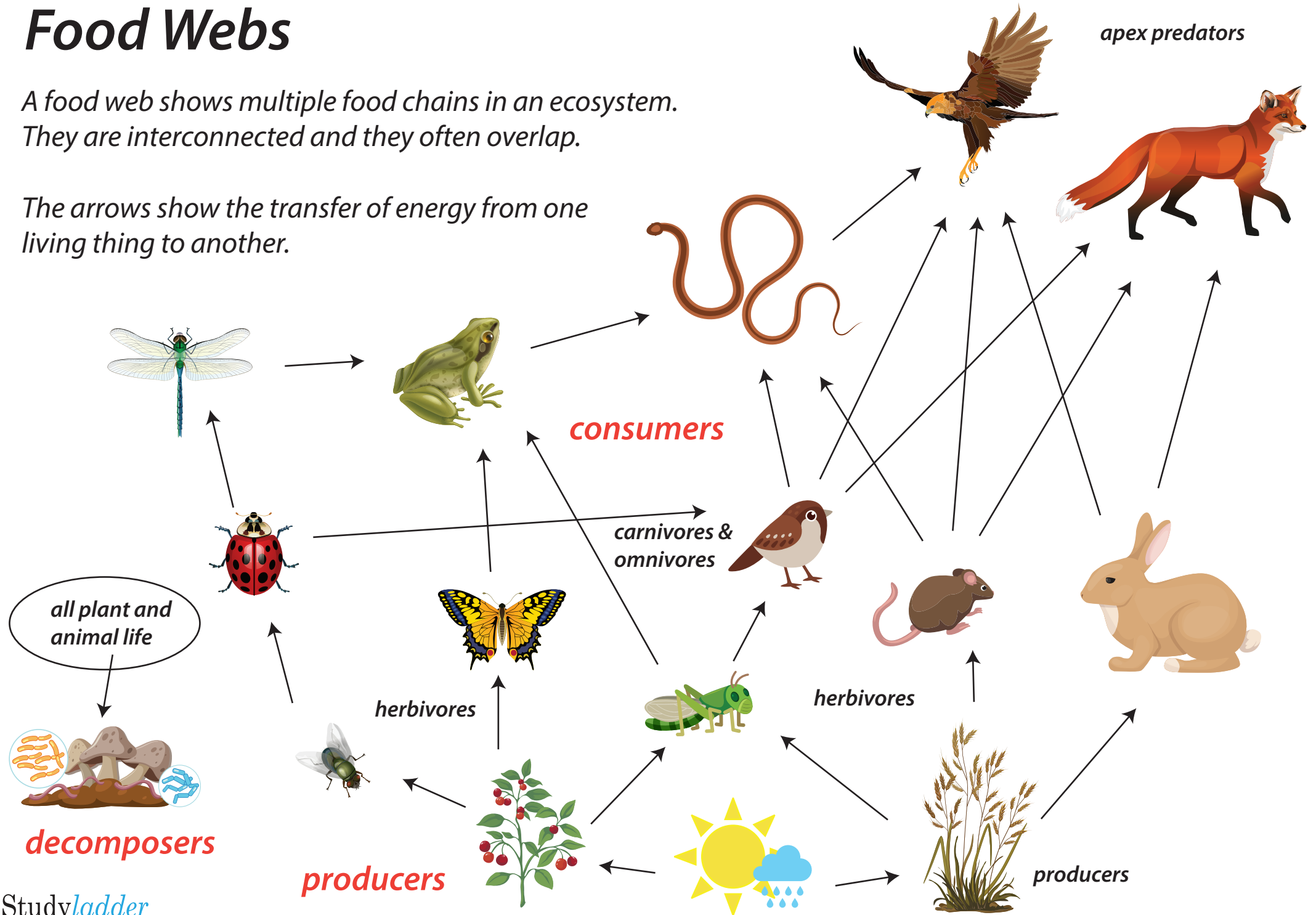
Each chain follows one possible path that energy takes as it flows from producers to consumers to decomposers.



Food Webs

A food web shows multiple food chains in an ecosystem. They are interconnected and they often overlap.

The arrows show the transfer of energy from one living thing to another.



Balanced Ecosystems

Organisms that live together in a particular environment form an ecosystem. The plants, animals and microbes that live in an environment are well adapted its particular conditions.

Ecosystems are balanced when there is an adequate food supply for all the organisms that live together in the habitat.

A healthy ecosystem will have an abundance of producers and a large population of herbivores. There will be relatively few carnivores and omnivores.

Changes to the conditions or the population of a particular group can place other groups under stress. This can lead to loss of species.

Habitat loss is a major problem that causes disruption to the balance of an ecosystem. When producers are lost there is little chance of sustaining a large population of consumers.



