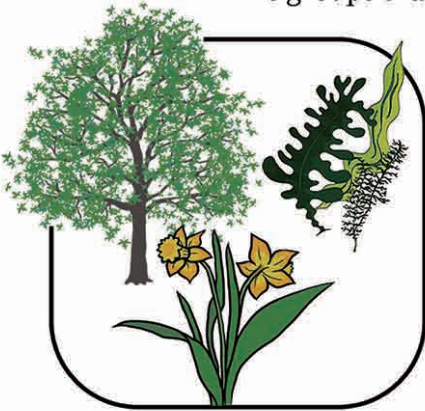


Producers, Consumers, and Decomposers

Living things can be divided into many groups.

The groups that make up a food chain are *producers*, *consumers*, and *decomposers*.

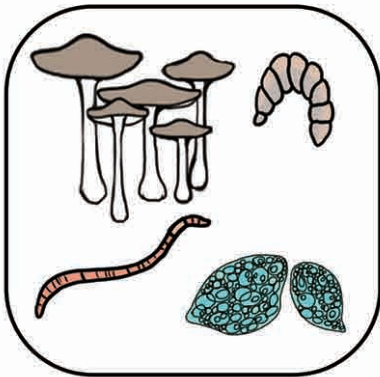
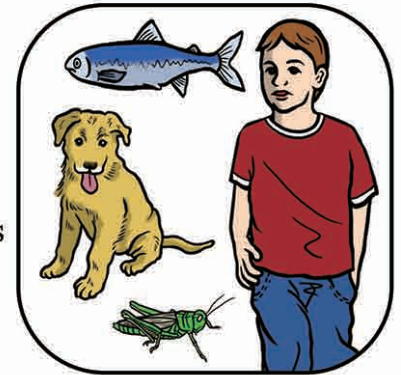
ANSWER



Producers are living things that produce, or make, their own food. Plants are producers; they make their food from water and sunlight in a process called photosynthesis. Some organisms in the ocean, like plankton and algae, also use the sun's energy to make their own food. Most of the living things on Earth are producers. They provide the energy for all other living things.

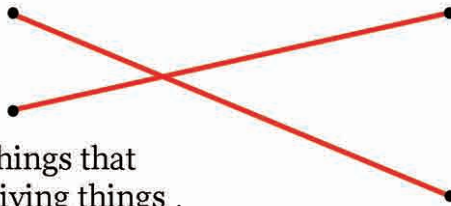
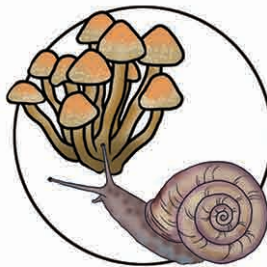
Consumers are living things that eat other living things, and include herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores. Herbivores are animals that only eat plants; ex. squirrels, butterflies, and zebras.

Carnivores are animals that only eat other animals; ex. lions, sharks, and the Venus flytrap. Lions are also an example of predators, animals that hunt and eat other animals, called prey. Omnivores are animals that eat both plants and animals, ex. people, bears, and raccoons.



Decomposers are organisms that break down dead plants and animals, so they can return to the earth as nutrients for plants. Worms, mushrooms, slugs, and aquatic fungi are examples of decomposers. Other parts of the food chain also eat the decomposers, so nothing is wasted. Think of humans eating mushrooms, for example. Since all living things eventually return to the earth, the food chain is really the circle of life.

Draw lines connecting the word to the correct definition.



Living things that can produce or make their own food .

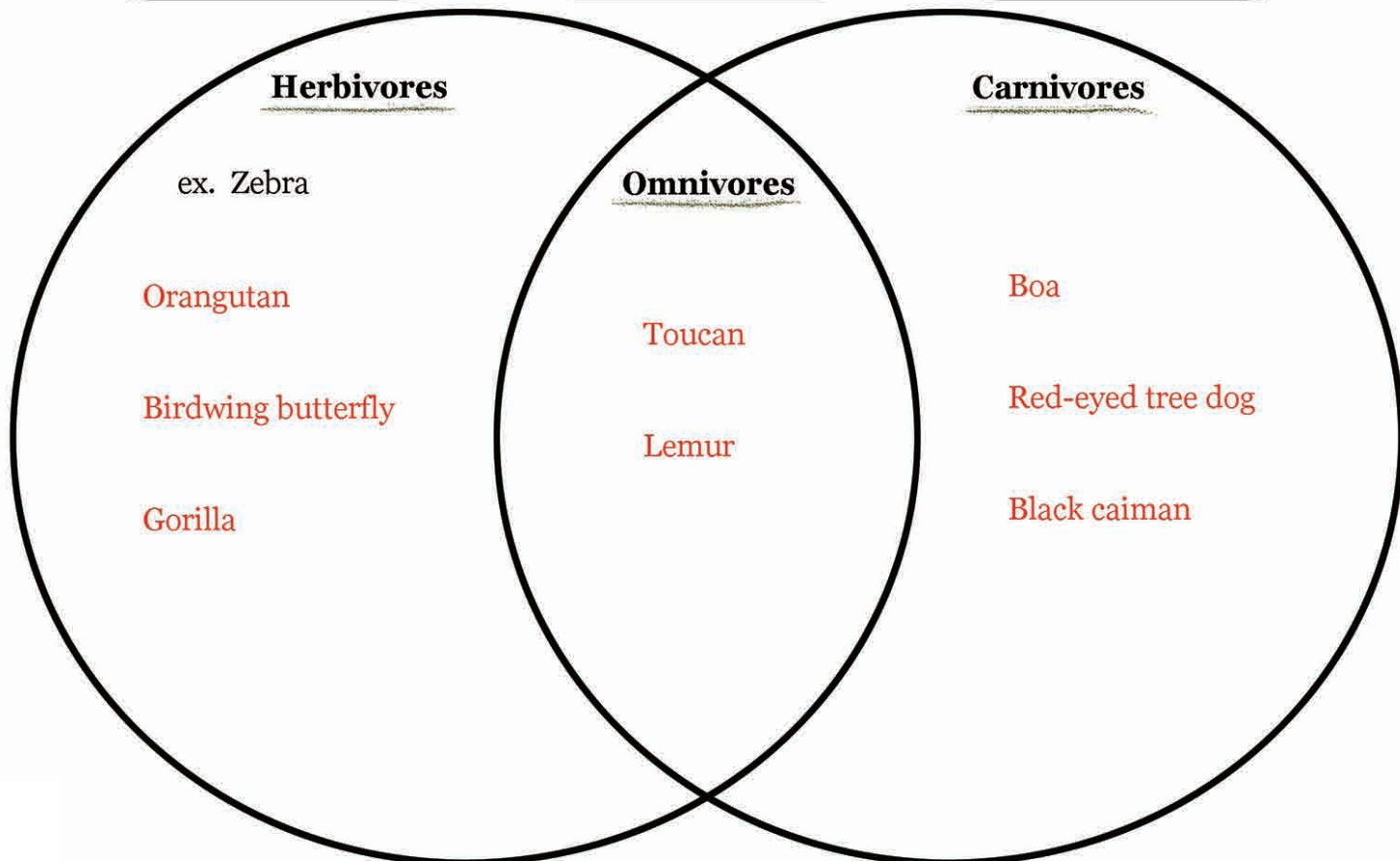
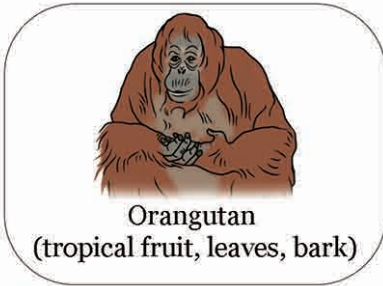
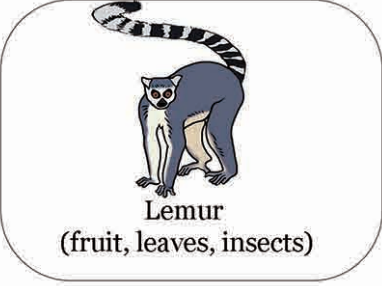
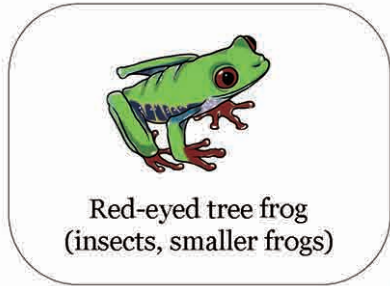
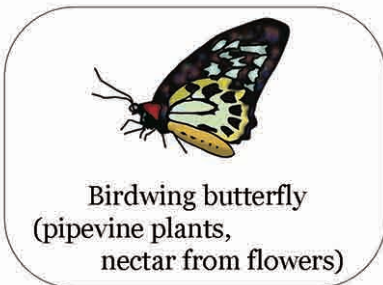
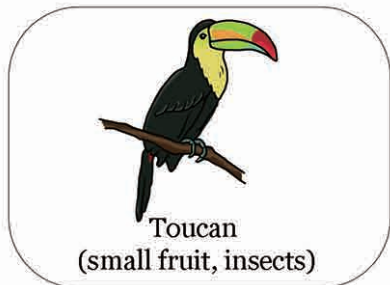
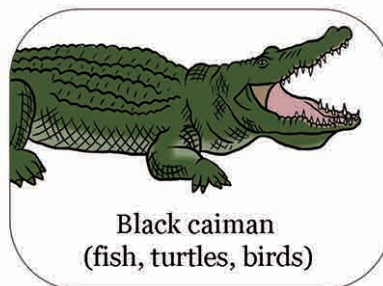
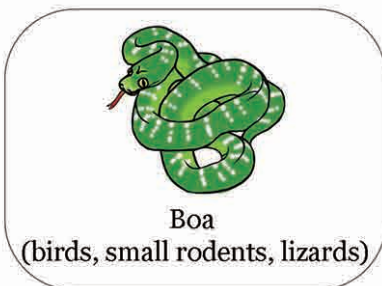
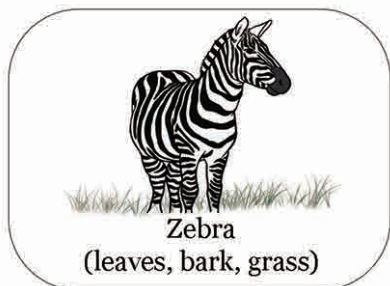
Living things that eat other living things .

An organism that breaks down dead plants and animals .

Answer

Consumers Diagram

Take a look at these animals: Your job is to write the animals in the correct areas.
The circle on the left is for herbivores only. The circle on the right is for carnivores only.
The intersection of the two circles in the middle is for omnivores.



Let's review before we move forward!

You've learned about predators, prey, carnivores, omnivores, herbivores, producers, consumers and decomposers. Now, let's double check before we move forward.

Hint: Use the vocabulary page at the beginning of the workbook if you get stuck.

ANSWER

1. Why are green plants called producers?

They make their own food from the sun.

2. Why are animals considered consumers?

They get their food from plants or other animals.

3. What is a predator?

An animal that eats other animals.

4. What is prey?

The animal that is being eaten.

5. What is the source of energy for plants?

The sun.

6. Why are decomposers important?

They get rid of and help dead plants and animals to return to the earth.

7. What would happen if the sun didn't exist?

Plants would die, so consumers that eat plants would die, too.

