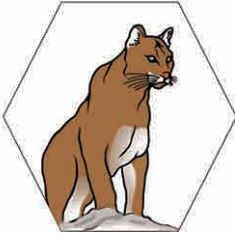


# Vocabulary

You're going to come across some new vocabulary in this workbook.  
If you get stuck, simply turn back to this page. The words are in alphabetical order.



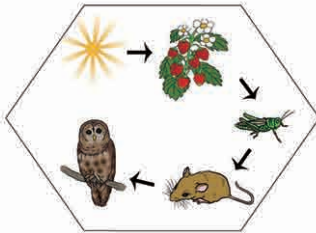
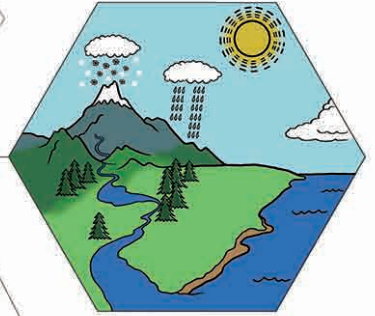
**carnivore** [kahr-nuh-vohr] : an animal that eats only meat.

**consumers** [kuhn-soo-mer] : living things that eat other living things.



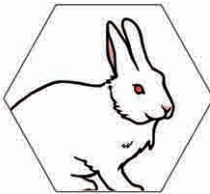
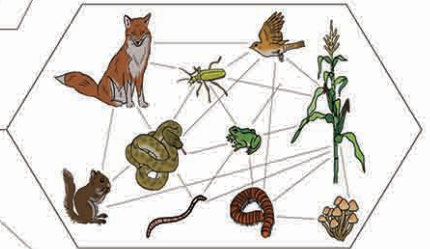
**decomposer** [dee-kuhm-poh-zer] :  
an organism that breaks down dead plants and animals.

**ecosystem** [ee-koh-sis-tuh m] :  
a community of living and non-living things that work together.



**food chain** [food cheyn] :  
shows how living things rely on each other for food and  
how energy is moved from one living thing to another.

**food web** [food web] : a group of connected food chains.



**herbivore** [hur-buh-vohr] : an animal that eats only plants.

**habitat** [hab-i-tat] : an area or environment where a plant or animal normally lives.



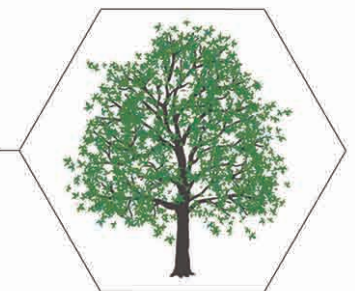
**omnivore** [om-nuh-vawr, -vohr] :  
an animal that eats plants and animals.

**predator** [pred-uh-ter] :  
an animal that hunts and eats other animals.



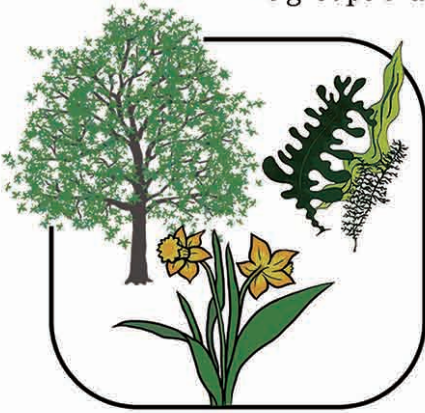
**prey** [prey] : an animal that is hunted by other animals.

**producer** [pruh-doo-ser] (also called autotroph [aw-tuh-trof]) :  
a living thing that can produce or make its own food.



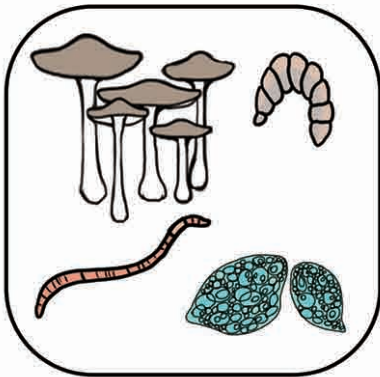
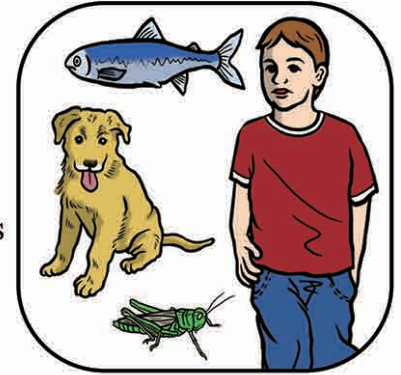
# Producers, Consumers, and Decomposers

Living things can be divided into many groups.  
The groups that make up a food chain are *producers*, *consumers*, and *decomposers*.



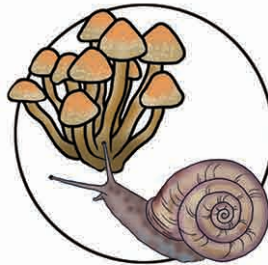
Producers are living things that produce, or make, their own food. Plants are producers; they make their food from water and sunlight in a process called photosynthesis. Some organisms in the ocean, like plankton and algae, also use the sun's energy to make their own food. Most of the living things on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



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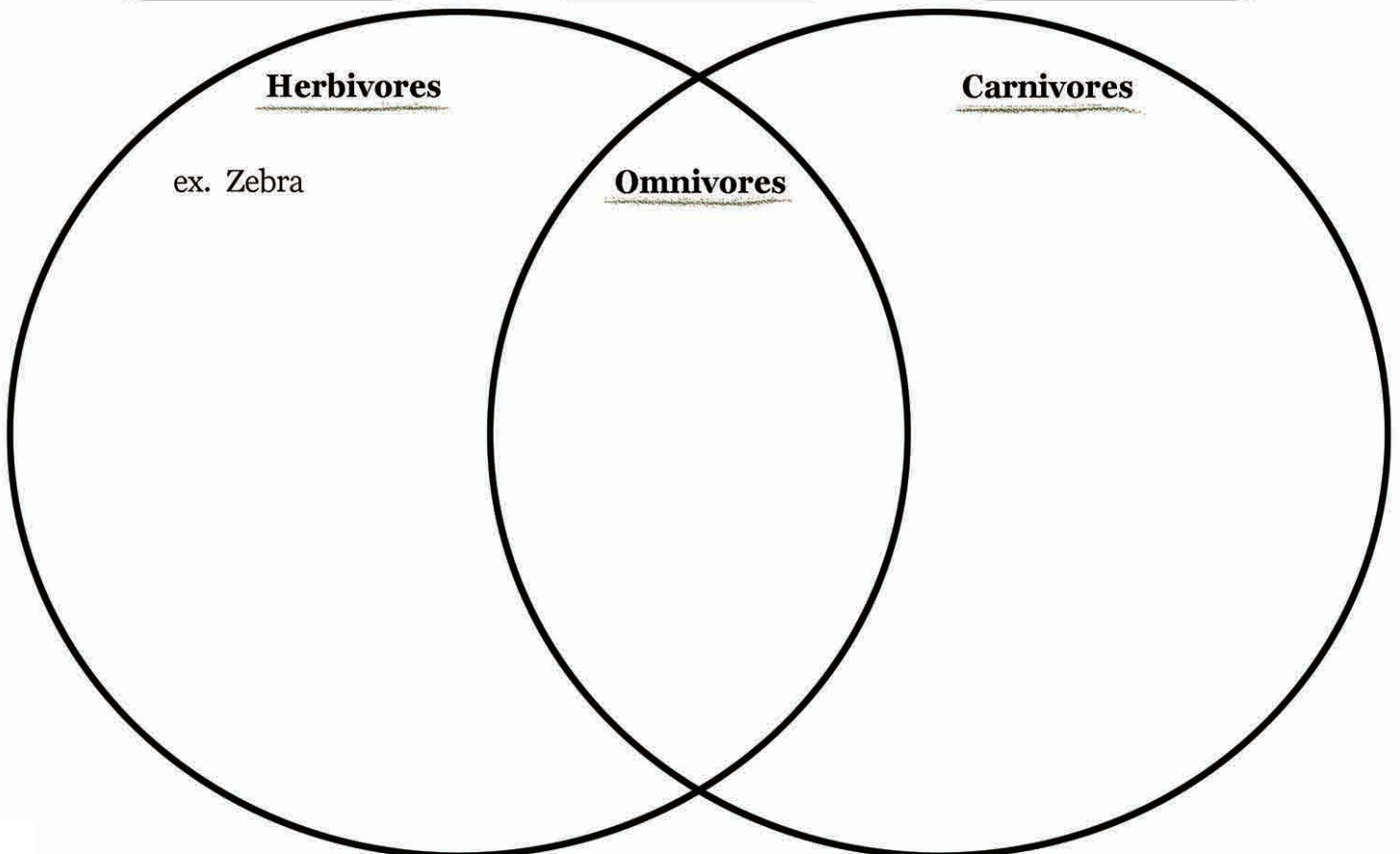
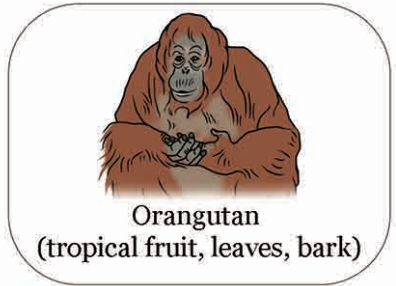
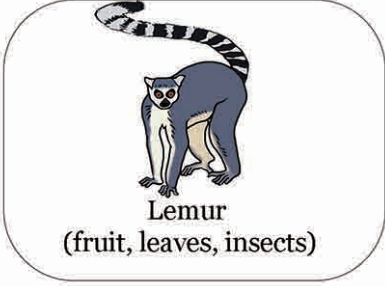
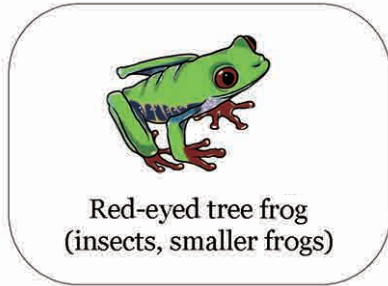
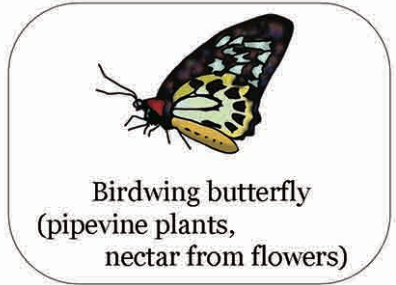
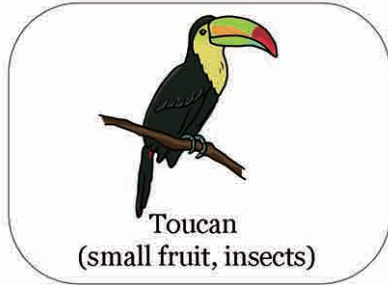
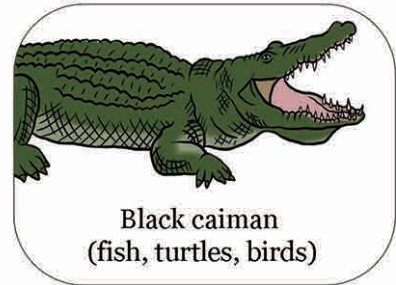
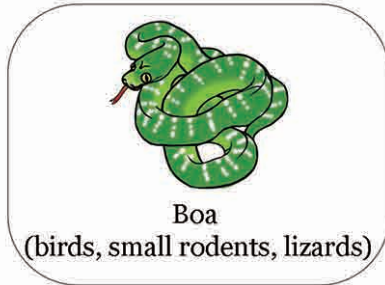
Living things that can produce or make their own food.

Living things that eat other living things.

An organism that breaks down dead plants and animals.

# 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.

1. Why are green plants called producers?

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2. Why are animals considered consumers?

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3. What is a predator?

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4. What is prey?

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5. What is the source of energy for plants?

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6. Why are decomposers important?

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

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