

Ecosystems Vocabulary

ecosystem - how organisms relate to each other & their surroundings

environment - everything (living & nonliving) that surrounds an organism

organism - living thing

Food Chain - energy that flows in an ecosystem

(ex) sun → flower → caterpillar → Bird

Food Web - overlapping food chains

Symbiosis - how 2 organisms relate in an ecosystem

Control - what stays the same in an experiment

variable - what changes in an experiment (testing)

Abiotic - nonliving (rocks, water, soil)

Biotic - living (animals, plants)

Food Chain

Scavenger - eats dead organisms
(vultures, hyenas)

Decomposers - organisms that break down dead organisms → puts nutrients back in the soil (mushrooms → bacteria)

Consumers / Carnivores - An animal that eats only meat

Omnivores - An animal that eats both plants → animals
vore = eat

Herbivores - An animal that eats only plants

Producers - (plants) organisms that make their own food

Sun - main source of energy for all food chains