

CONSERVANCY

FOR CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

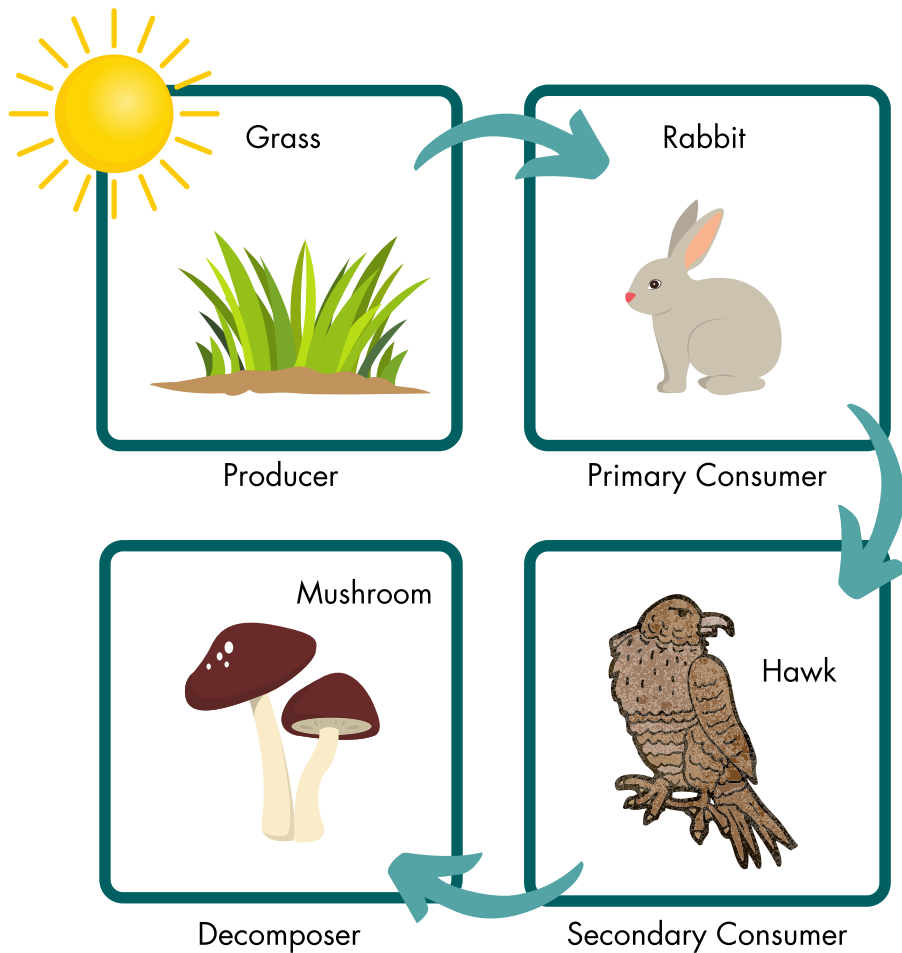
— CUYAHOGA CONNECTIONS —

JOURNAL VOL. 1

Food Webs

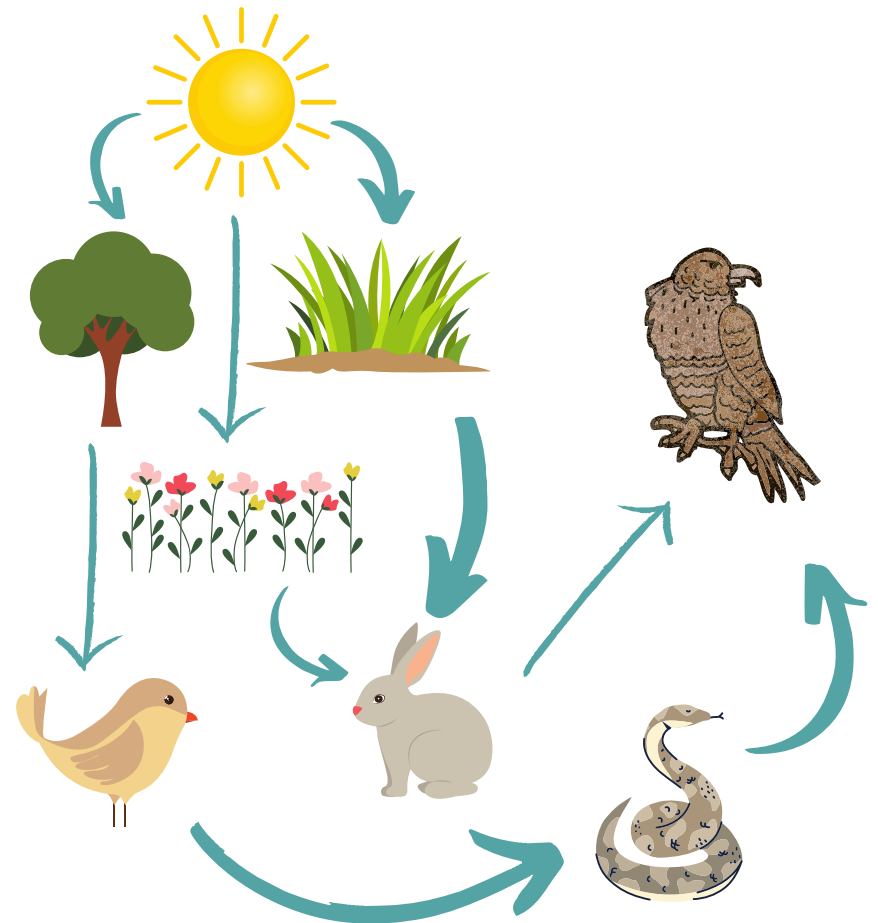
What is a food chain?

A food chain shows a single connected path of energy flow through an ecosystem. The Earth receives its energy from the sun in the form of light. Green plants capture this sunlight energy and turn it into food. Animals get this stored energy when they eat plants or other animals that eat plants.



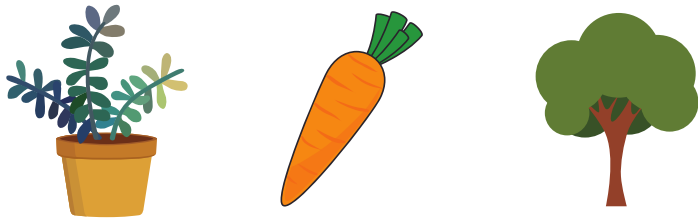
What is a food web?

A food web shows the many different paths of which plants and animals are connected. While a food chain only follows one path, a food web gives a complex view of multiple species within an ecosystem.



Producers

These organisms absorb and convert the sun's energy into food.



The process in which plants convert the sun's light energy into food, or chemical energy, is called _____.*

Draw a producer!

A large empty rounded rectangular box with a dark teal border, intended for drawing a producer.

*Need help finding this answer? Check the vocabulary page at the end of this journal!

Primary Consumers

Organisms that eat producers for energy are primary consumers.



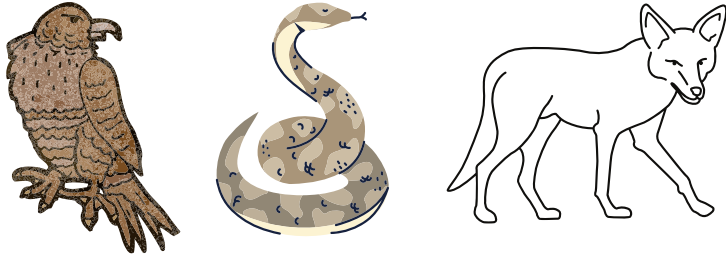
Animals whose food and energy source are plants are called _____.

Draw a primary consumer!

A large empty rounded rectangular box with a dark teal border, intended for drawing a primary consumer.

Secondary Consumers

Organisms that eat primary consumers are secondary consumers.



Animals whose food and energy source are animals are called _____.*

Draw a secondary consumer!

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a dark teal border, intended for drawing a secondary consumer.

*Need help finding this answer? Check the vocabulary page at the end of this journal!

Decomposers

Organisms that break down dead or decaying organisms.



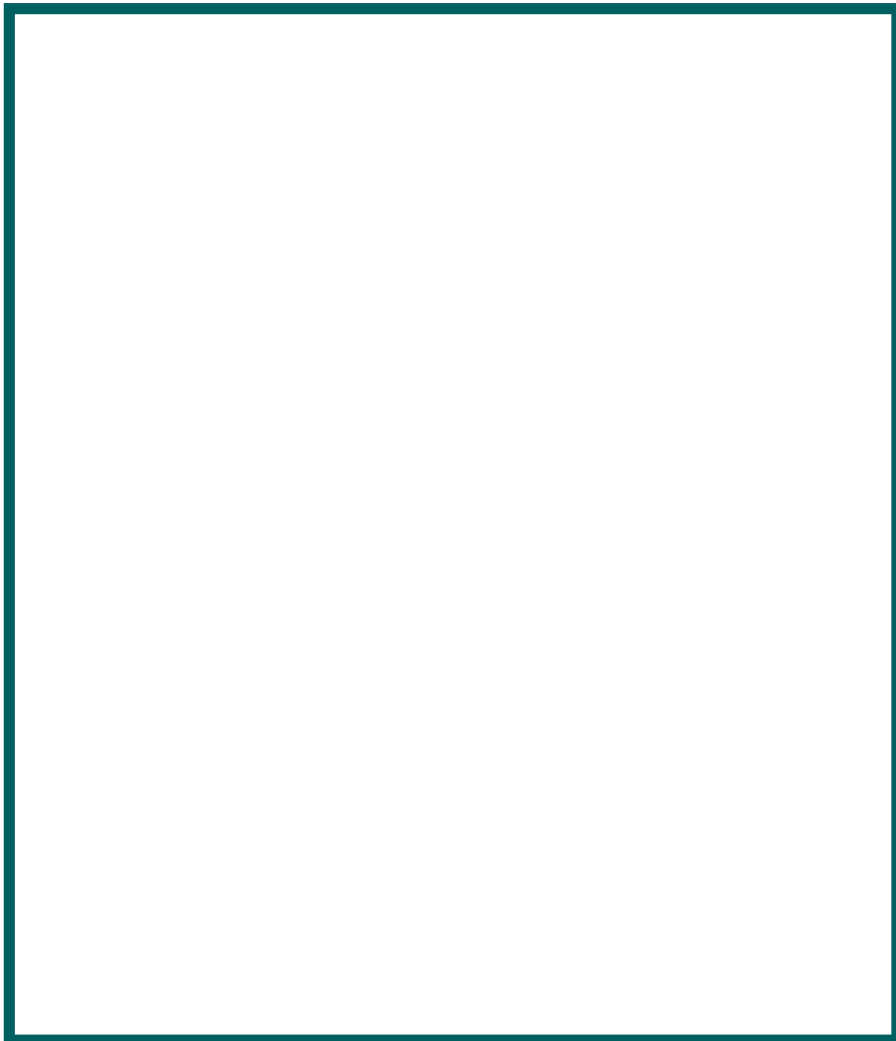
Decomposers are essential in breaking down organic matter into compounds that plants need to grow.

Draw a decomposer!

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a dark teal border, intended for drawing a decomposer.

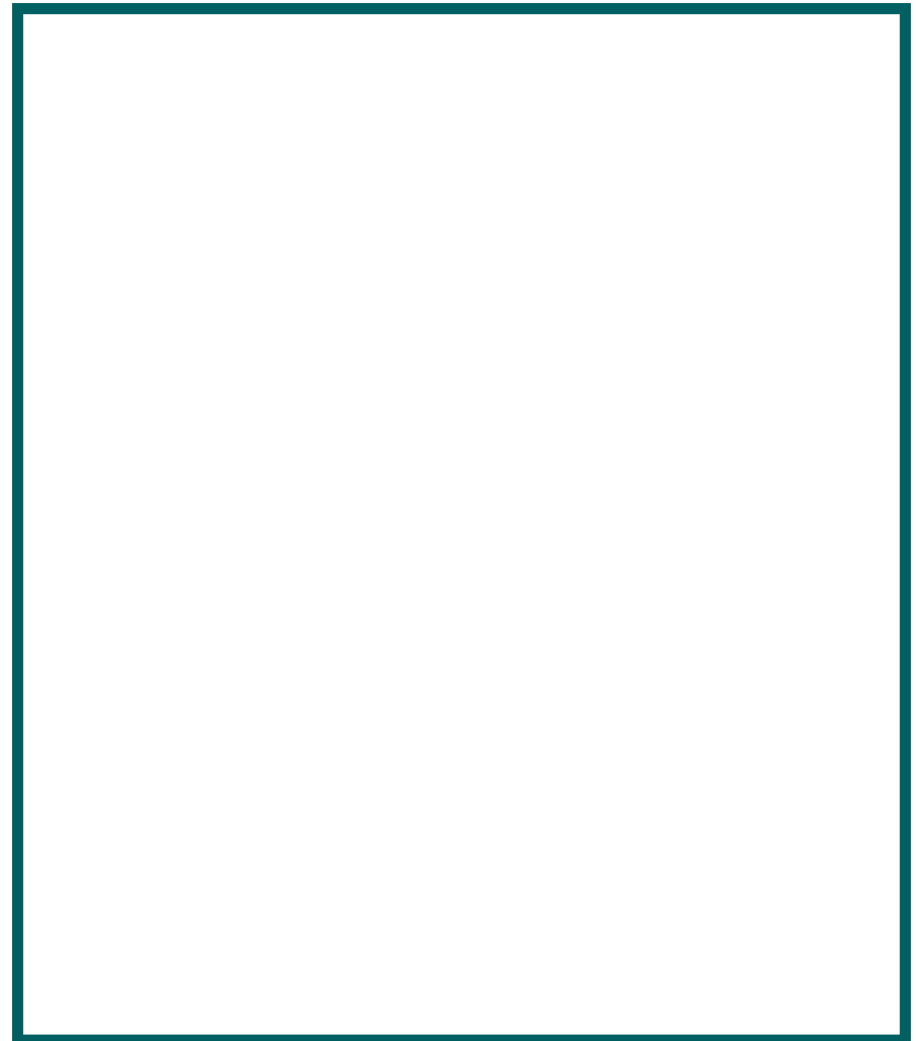
Ecosystem Exploration

Imagine an ecosystem you would like to explore (Forest, Grassland, Tundra, Desert, Ocean, Freshwater). What organisms would you find? What adaptations do they have that help them survive?



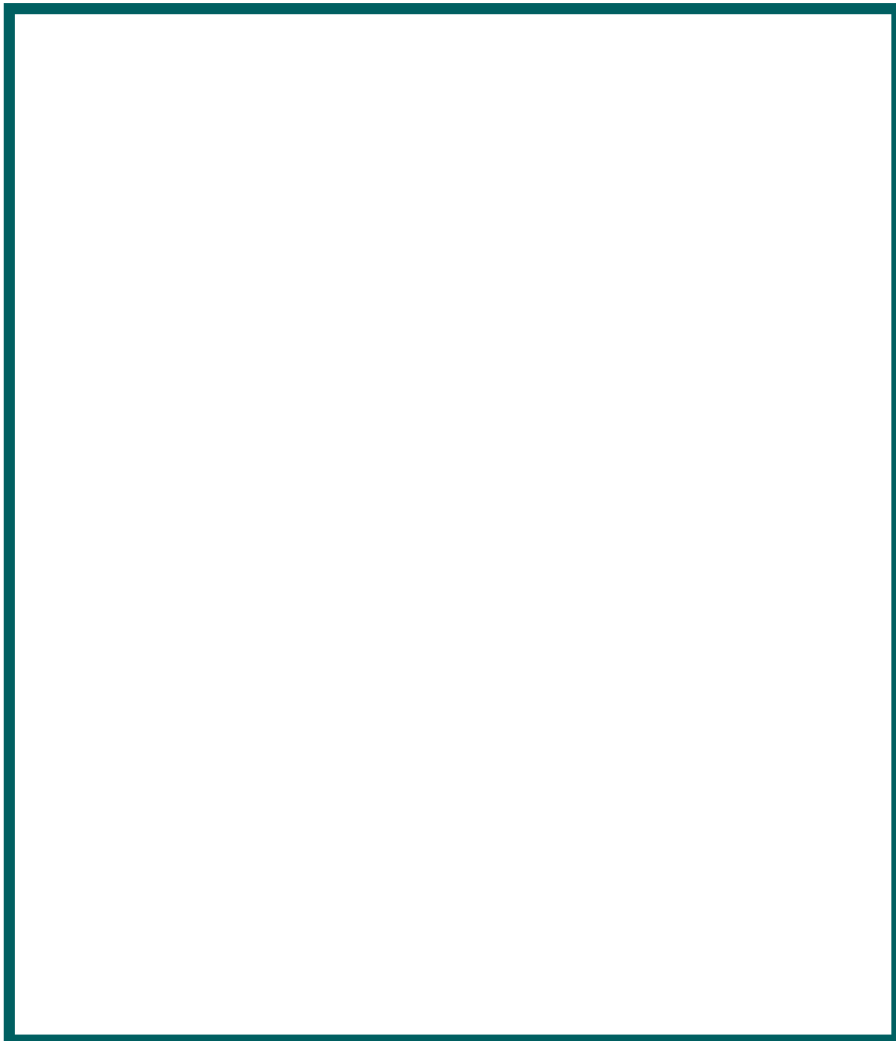
Creative Writing

Without decomposers, dead leaves, dead insects, and dead animals would pile up everywhere. Write a descriptive short story about what the world would look like without decomposers. (Feel free to use a separate sheet of paper if you need!)



Critical Thinking

White-tailed deer are a common sight throughout Cuyahoga Valley National Park. What might be the impact of white tailed deer on the food chain? (Hint: White-tailed deer are primary consumers.They eat a wide variety of grasses and wooded plants!)



Vocabulary

Adaptation- A trait or behavior of an organism that helps them survive.

Carnivore- An animal whose food and energy comes from meat

Decomposer- Organisms that break down dead or decaying organisms

Ecosystem- All the biotic (living) and abiotic (nonliving) factors interacting in a given area

Food Chain- A path of food energy from organism to organism within an ecosystem

Food Web- The interconnection of food chains

Herbivore- an animal whose food and energy comes from plants

Omnivore- An animal whose food and energy comes from both plants and animals

Photosynthesis- The process in which plants convert the sun's light energy into chemical energy

Primary Consumer- Organisms that eat producers for energy

Producer- Organisms that convert the sun's energy to make their own food

Secondary Consumer- Organisms that eat primary consumers for their energy

Organic Matter- Matter or material that comes from a recently living organism

Organism- A plant, animal, or single-celled life form