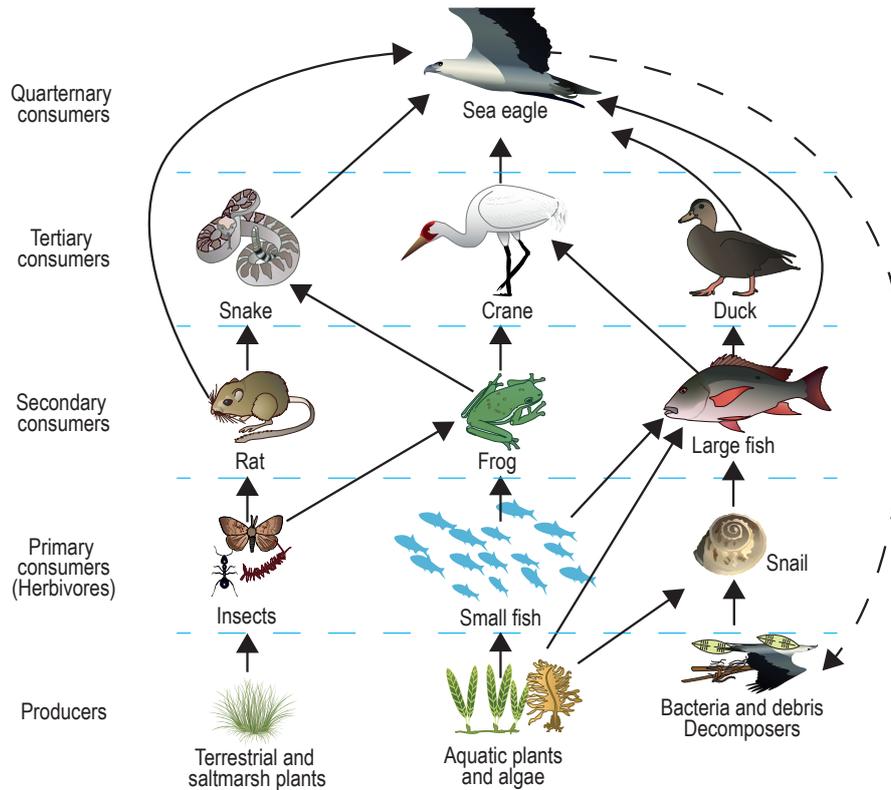


Introduction to food webs



CoralWatch

Instructions

Every living thing is eaten by something in all ecosystems. Producers are eaten by first order consumers. Smaller prey is consumed by larger predators, until they, in turn succumb to injury or disease, and are recycled by decomposers. Removal of any link in these chains will affect the pattern of the entire food web. As we move up a particular food chain, the first organism to eat a producer is called a first order or primary consumer. The animal that eats the primary consumer is the secondary consumer and so on. In a food web, some animals can be more than one level of consumption at the same time.

Using the food web and the legend:

1. Identify and list the producers.
2. Identify and list the primary consumers.
3. Identify and list the the tertiary consumers.
4. Identify and list the decomposers.
5. If grass is a producer in this ecosystem, where does it get its energy from?
6. Describe the difference between a food chain and a food web.
7. Looking at the food web, is there an animal that is both a tertiary and quaternary consumer?
8. Looking at the food web, is there an animal that is both a secondary and tertiary consumer?
9. In pairs, think about one of the gardens in your school. Construct your own food web of all the organisms that live there. Make sure you identify a producer and consider what might be the decomposer of this ecosystem.
10. As a class, discuss three of the food webs produced by students and encourage peers to evaluate the ideas about the organisms and suggest improvements.