

Skills Worksheet

Directed Reading

Section: Energy Flow in Ecosystems

In the space provided, explain how the terms in each pair differ in meaning.

1. producers, consumers

2. trophic level, food chain

3. herbivores, carnivores

4. omnivores, decomposers

Directed Reading *continued*

In the space provided, write the letter of the description that best matches the term or phrase.

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| _____ 5. omnivores | a. interconnected group of food chains |
| _____ 6. herbivores | b. cause decay |
| _____ 7. producers | c. a path of energy through the trophic levels of an ecosystem |
| _____ 8. energy pyramid | d. eat only plants |
| _____ 9. decomposers | e. eat only animals |
| _____ 10. consumers | f. organisms that first capture energy |
| _____ 11. carnivores | g. eat both plants and animals |
| _____ 12. food web | h. consume plants or other organisms to obtain energy |
| _____ 13. food chain | i. a triangular diagram that shows the movement of energy through an ecosystem |

Complete each statement by writing the correct term or phrase in the space provided.

14. At each trophic level, the energy stored is about _____ percent of that stored by the organisms in the level below.
15. A(n) _____ is a diagram in which each trophic level is represented by a block.
16. Many ecosystems do not have enough energy to support a large population of _____.
17. In an ecosystem, energy flows from the _____ to producers to consumers.
18. Energy that is not stored or used at each link in a food chain is dissipated as _____ into the environment.
19. Big predators on the third or fourth trophic level are rare compared to _____ on the second trophic level.
20. Energy may be stored as fat or _____.