

Food Chains

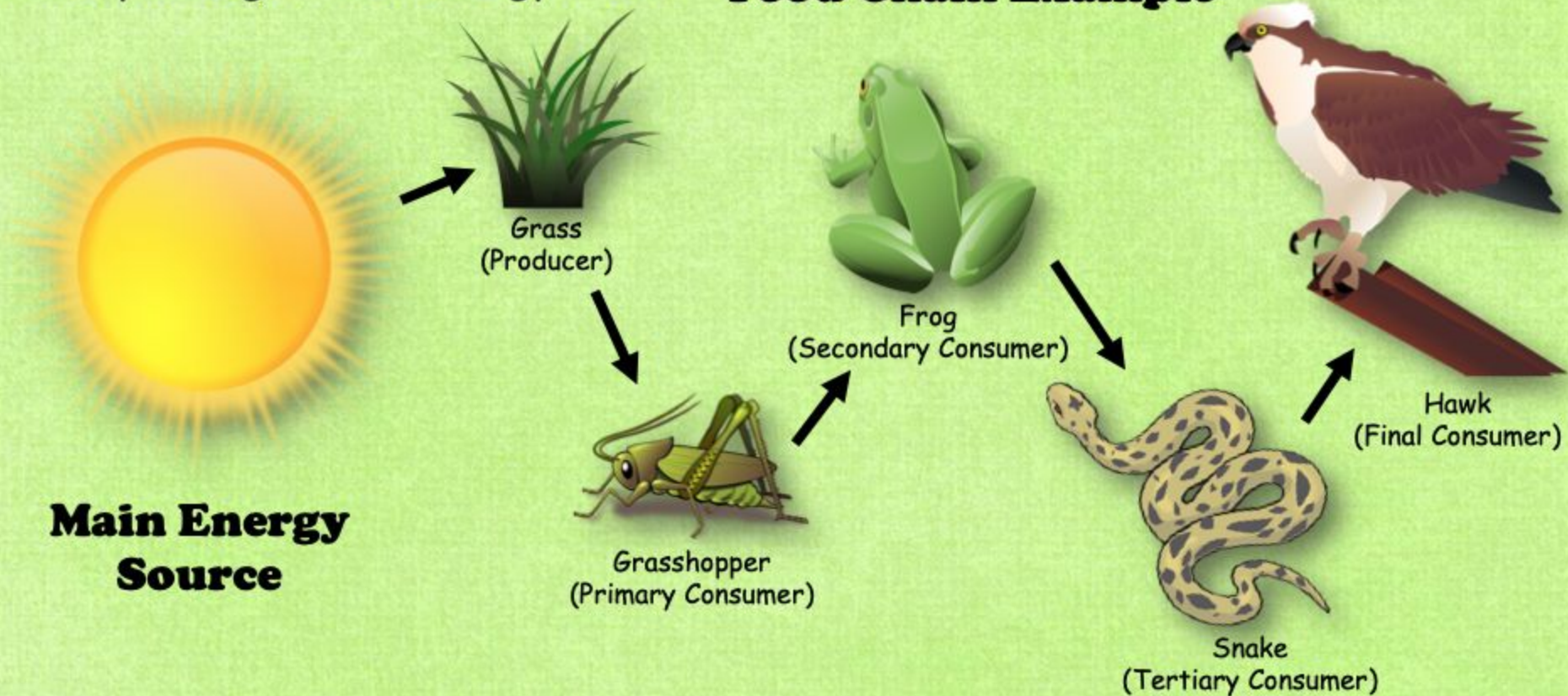
and

Food Webs



Food chains describe who eats who in an ecosystem to obtain nutrients and energy in order to live. The primary energy source of a food chain is the sun in which plants get their energy from.

Food Chain Example



Producers

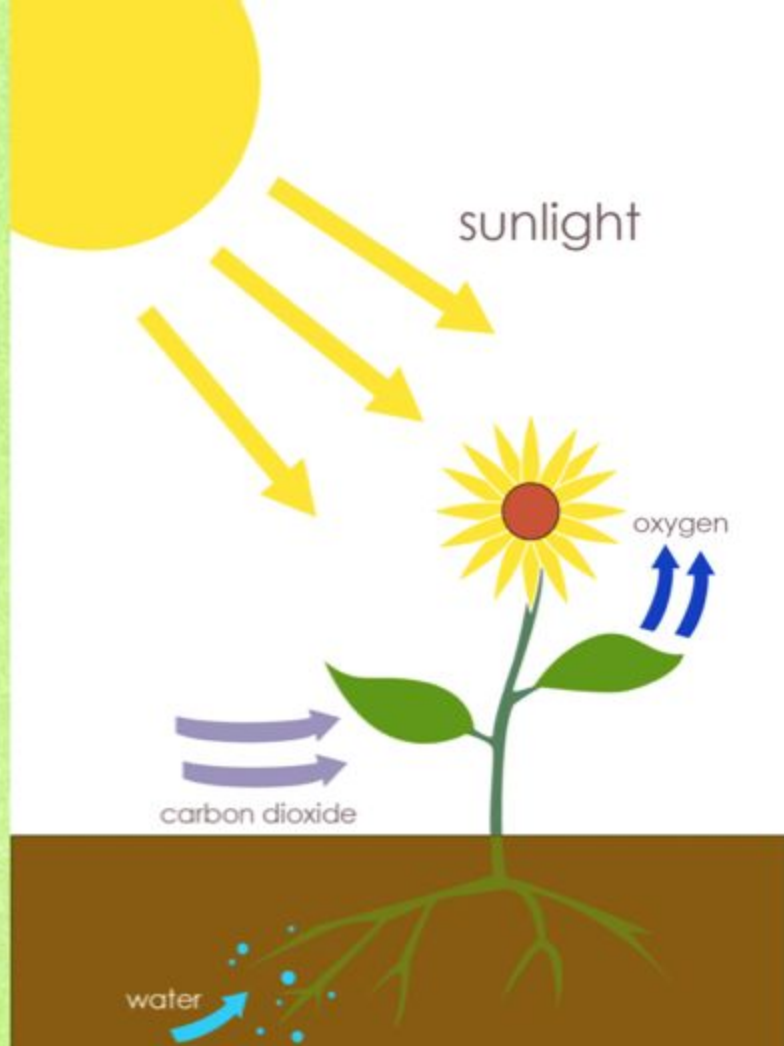
Producers are the beginning of a food chain. Plants are producers because they produce food and energy through a process called photosynthesis.



What is Photosynthesis?

Sunlight is energy. Plants take that energy from sunlight and use it to convert carbon dioxide and water into food.

Plants need 3 things to live:
Sunlight + Water + Carbon Dioxide



Consumers

Animals are consumers because they do not produce energy, they use it instead.



Primary Consumers / Herbivores

Animals that eat *only* plants



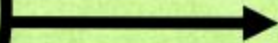
Secondary Consumers / Carnivores

Carnivores that eat herbivores



Carnivore

Fox eats the
rabbit



Herbivore

Tertiary Consumers / Carnivores

Carnivores that eat other carnivores.

Lynx eats the Fox



Carnivore



Carnivore

Omnivores

Animals or people who eat *both* animals and plants



Grizzly Bears eat plants, insects, fish, and animals.

What other omnivores
can you think of?

Here is a list of some more omnivores:

- Chickens
- Coyotes
- Pigs
- Flamingos
- Gorillas
- Monkeys
- Kit Fox
- Raccoons
- Skunks
- Swans
- Sea Otter
- Wood Peckers
- Whales
- Geese



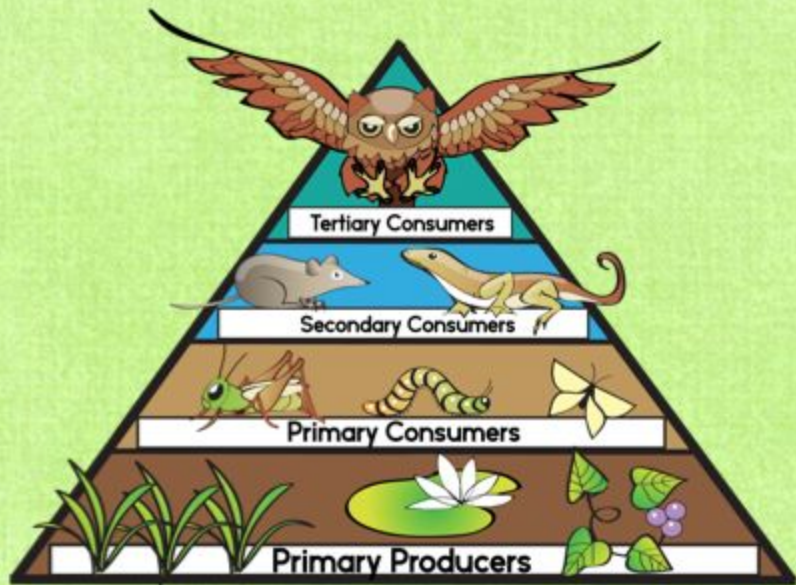
Decomposers

Decomposers are bacteria, fungi, and worms that feed on decaying matter such as dead plants and animals. They help put nutrients back into the soil for plants to eat.

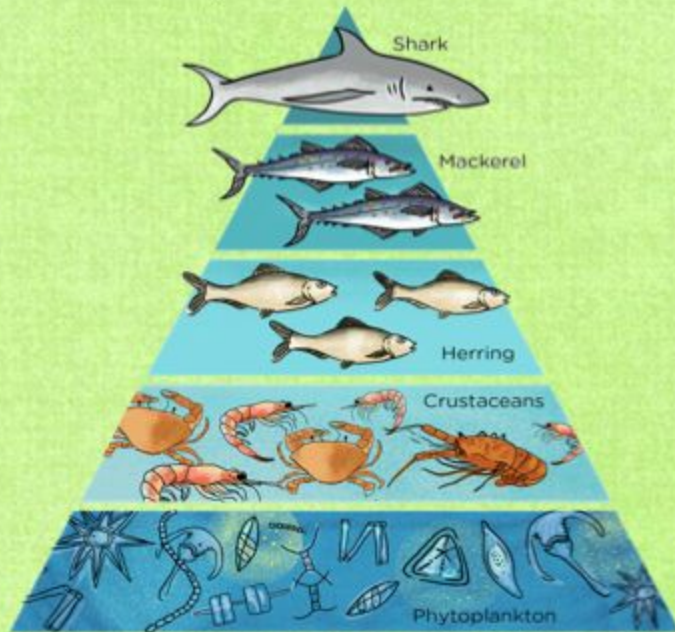


Trophic Pyramids

A trophic Pyramid is used to show the different levels of organisms and their place in the ecosystem.



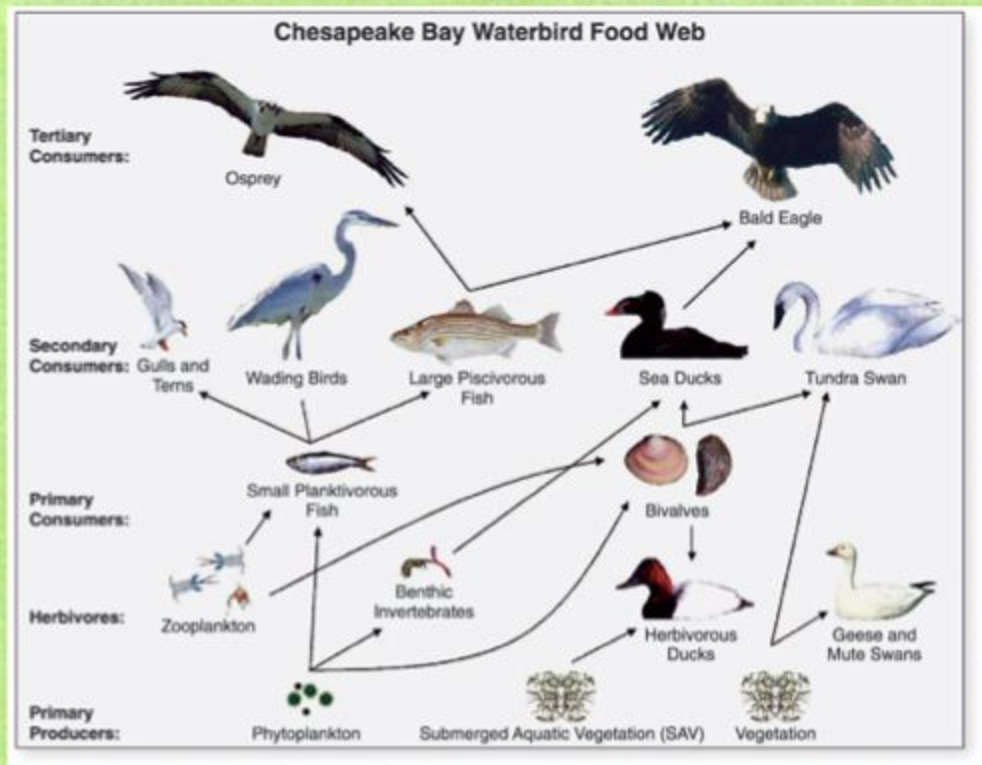
Trophic Pyramid



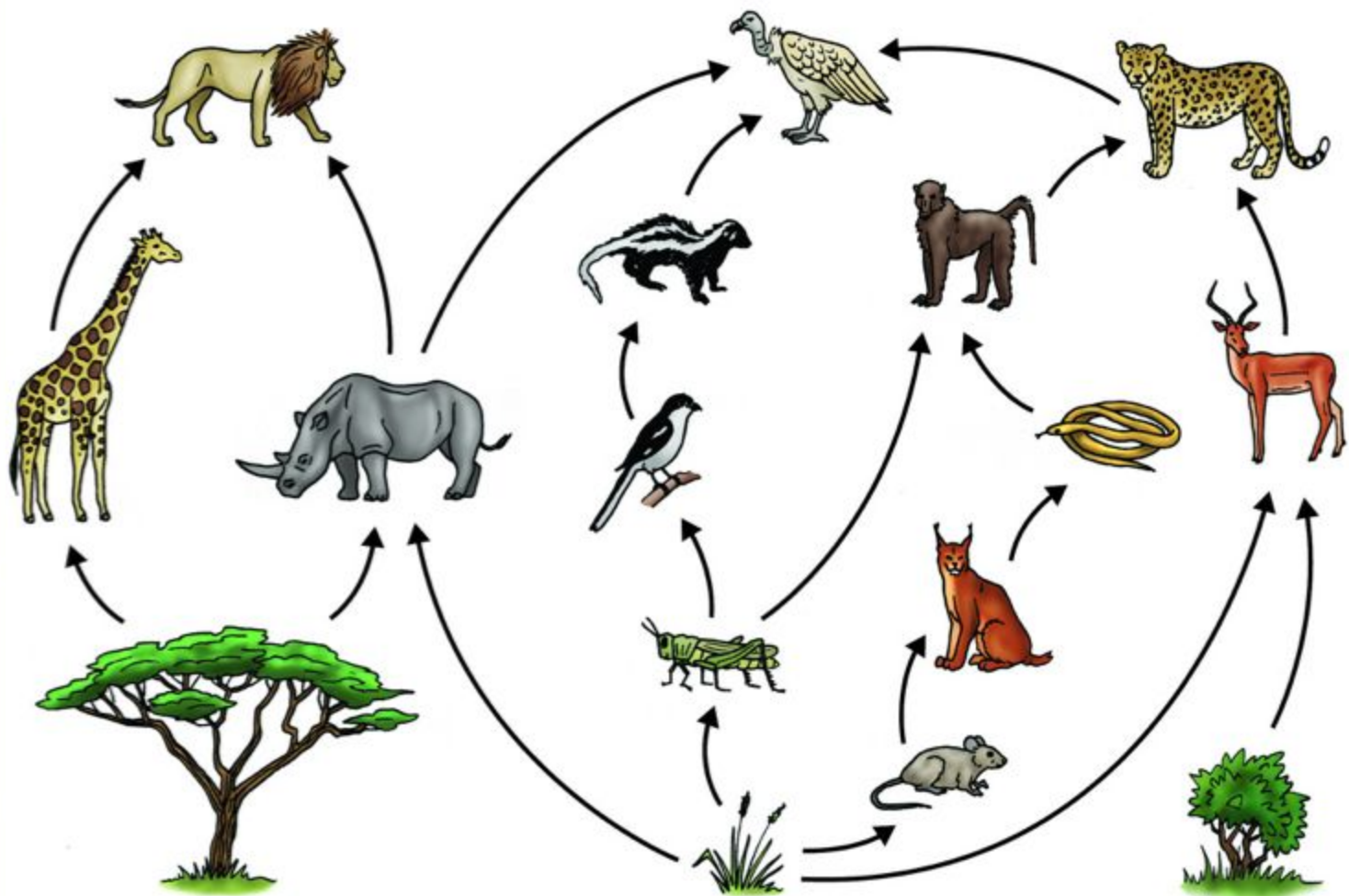
Marine Trophic Pyramid

Food Webs

There are many food chains in our ecosystem and most plants and animals are a part of more than one food chain. When you draw all the food chains together, you end up with a food web.



How many food chains can you find in this food web?



9

