

Ecosystem Literacy Assignment

Use the vocabulary words below to explain various ecosystem concepts. Please use your own words and feel free to use real-world examples in your sentence.

Notes: You should have one vocabulary word per sentence.

This should be completed and SHARED with me via Google Docs. (DUE: 12/16/19)

Vocabulary & Definitions

1. **Ecology:** The study of how organisms interact with their environment and with other organisms.
2. **Ecosystem:** All of the organisms that live in a certain area and their nonliving environment.
3. **Food Chain:** Steps in an ecosystem that show the transfer of energy as organisms are consuming one another.
4. **Food Web:** A complex network of interactions that shows the feeding relationships between organisms in an ecosystem.
5. **Energy Pyramid:** A diagram showing the flow of energy through a food chain.
6. **Trophic Levels:** The feeding levels in a food chain.
7. **Producers:** Organisms that use inorganic material such as sunlight or chemical compounds to produce their own food.
8. **Consumers:** Organisms that eat other organisms for energy.
9. **Primary Consumers (herbivores):** Organisms that eat producers.
10. **Carnivores:** Organisms that eat meat.
11. **Secondary Consumers:** Carnivores that eat herbivores.
12. **Tertiary Consumers:** Carnivores that eat secondary consumers.
13. **Omnivores:** Organisms that eat both plants and meat.
14. **Decomposers:** Organisms (bacteria and fungi) that break down decaying matter for energy and nutrients.
15. **Law of Conservation of Energy:** States that energy cannot be created or destroyed; it can only be transformed.
16. **Ten Percent Rule:** Only about 10 percent of the energy available in one trophic level is available to organisms in the next higher trophic level.