

Feeding Relationships

Organisms need energy to survive and function.

Different organisms obtain energy in different ways.

- Producers - convert light into chemical energy to produce biomass
 - Plants

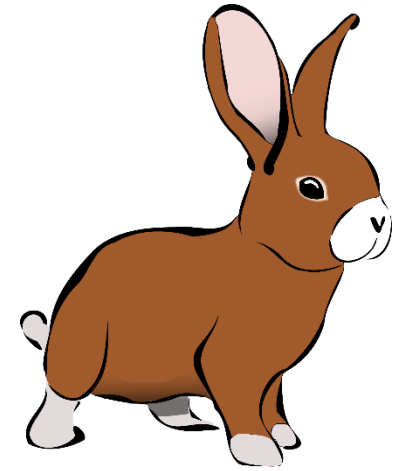


Feeding Relationships

Consumers obtain energy by eating other organisms

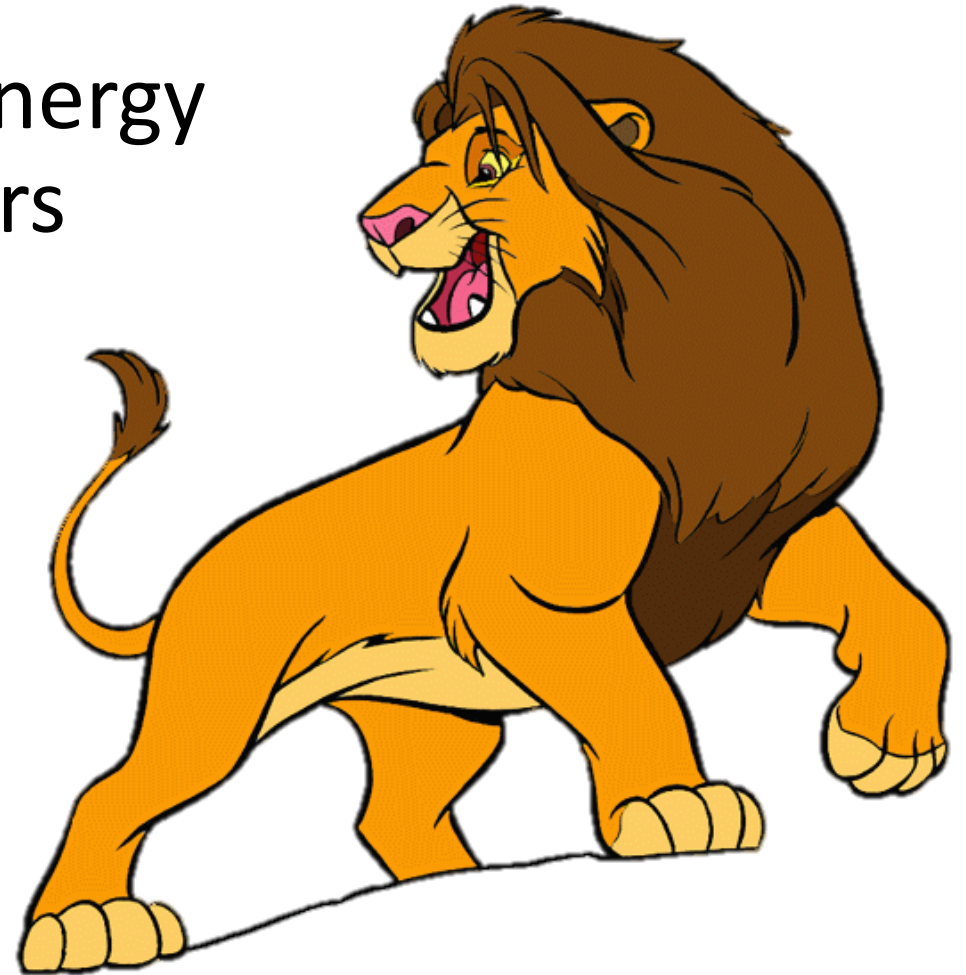
- Primary consumer - an organism that eats only producers
 - Herbivores - only eat plants, which are producers.

- Secondary consumer - obtain some or most of their energy by consuming primary consumers
 - Omnivores - eat plants and other consumers
 - Carnivores - eat only other consumers

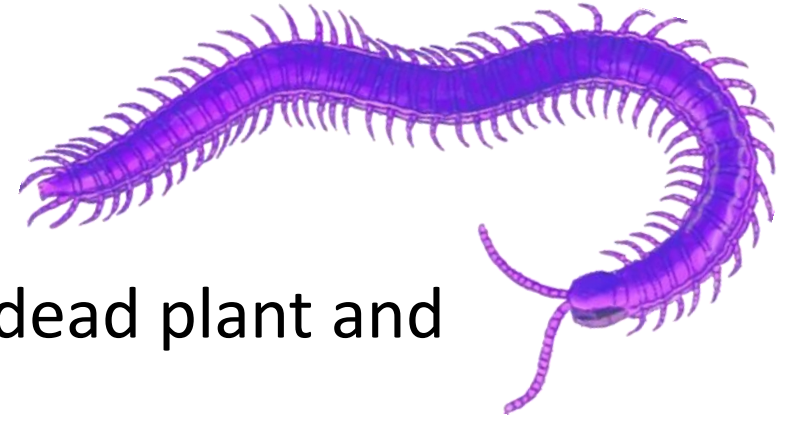


Feeding Relationships

- Tertiary Consumers - obtain energy by eating secondary consumers
 - all are carnivores



Feeding Relationships



Some organisms obtain energy by breaking down dead plant and animal matter

- Detritivores - consume detritus - dead organic matter or waste
 - earthworms, millipedes, and fiddler crabs
- Scavengers - type of detritivore that specifically eats remains of dead animals
 - Vultures



Feeding Relationships

- Decomposers - detritivores that break down dead organic matter and absorb nutrients
 - fungi
 - support ecosystem function by cycling important nutrients like carbon and nitrogen back into soil, air, and water

