

Vocabulary

Use the vocabulary words and definitions below as a reference for this unit.

- biodiversity** the variety of species of organisms
- carnivore** an organism that eats animals (or consumers)
Example: lion, shark
- community** all the interacting organisms of different species living in the same area
- consumers** organisms that must eat other living things to survive
- decomposers** living things that eat dead organisms to survive
- ecology** the study of habitat in interaction with the community of organisms that live there
- ecosystem** a distinct, self-supporting unit of interacting organisms and their environment
- environment** the biological and physical things that surround and affect an organism
- food chain** transfer of energy from one living thing to another; a chain of living things in which each organism eats the one before it and is eaten by the one after it

Vocabulary

food web	the interconnected feeding relationship in a food chain in a particular place and time
habitat	a place in an ecosystem where an organism normally lives
herbivore	an organism that eats mainly plants (or producers) <i>Example:</i> sheep, manatee
omnivore	an organism that eats both plants and animals (or producers and consumers) <i>Example:</i> humans, killfish
organisms	living things <i>Example:</i> anything plant, animal, or fungus
photosynthesis	the process plants and algae use to make the sugar glucose from water, carbon dioxide, and the energy in sunlight
producers	organisms that can make their own food through photosynthesis
scavengers	organisms that eat the remains of already dead animals and plants
species	the most precise grouping for an organism; directly identifies one particular type of living thing able to produce only among themselves