**Notes:**

ECOLOGY - the study of interactions among organisms with each other and with environment

BIOSPHERE - portion of planet where life exists

LEVELS OF ORGANIZATION

Species - individuals that can breed with one another

Population - all the individuals of the same species (ducks) in an area

Community - all the different species in an area (ducks + maple trees + dragonflies)

Ecosystem - the community plus the physical factors in an area (ducks + maple trees + dragonflies + temperature + soil + rainfall)

Biome - large area that has a particular climate, and particular species of plants and animals that live there (tundra)

Biosphere - the part of the earth that supports life

Ecological methods - how do we study it?

Observing Experimenting Modeling

**Energy Flow**

Autotrophs (producers) - capture energy from environment and convert it into "food"

Heterotrophs (consumers) - must eat things

Herbivores Carnivores Omnivores Detritivores / Decomposers

\*SUNLIGHT is the main source of energy\*

Photosynthesis - uses light energy to make "food"

Chemosynthesis - makes food from chemicals (some bacteria synthesize food in this way)





FOOD CHAINS AND FOOD WEBS - illustrate the flow of energy in an ecosystem

\*Note the direction of the arrows, they indicate where the energy is going when one organism consumes another. \*Each step in a chain or web is called a TROPHIC LEVEL





**Identify the:**

Herbivores

Carnivores

Omnivores

Producers

Primary Consumers

Secondary Consumers

Tertiary Consumers

**Ecological Pyramids**

Energy Pyramid

**Pyramid of Numbers**



**Biomass Pyramid**



* **Biogeochemical Cycles**

(biology + geology + chemical)

matter is not used up, it is transformed, the same molecules are passed around (see images in your book)

**Water Cycle**

ground water transpiration (from plants) evaporation (from bodies of water) precipitation (from clouds)



 **Nutrient Cycles**

nutrients = all the chemical substances needed to maintain life body's chemical building blocks carbon, nitrogen phosphorous

**Carbon Cycle**

Respiration (breathing of animals)  Combustion (burning) Photosynthesis (uses CO2 and converts to oxygen)

**Nitrogen Cycle**

Nitrogen is a fertilizer for plants 78% of the air is made of nitrogen

Nitrogen Fixation - Bacteria take nitrogen from the air and convert to a form used by plants

**Phosphorous Cycle**

Part of DNA Stays mostly in land and rock (not the atmosphere)

**NUTRIENT LIMITATION**

Primary Productivity - rate at which matter is created by producers

Lots of plants = high productivity

Limiting Nutrient - what limits the amount of productivity (water, light, nitrogen)

Fertilizer adds nitrogen to increase growth Nitrogen enters water systems --> causes algal blooms