4

Science Standard 4.2.b.

Dictionary

California Education and the Environment Initiative

The Flow of Energy Through Ecosystems

Dictionary

C

carnivore

An organism that gets its energy by eating other animals.

compete

To use or try to use the same food, water, habitat, or other resources.

consumer

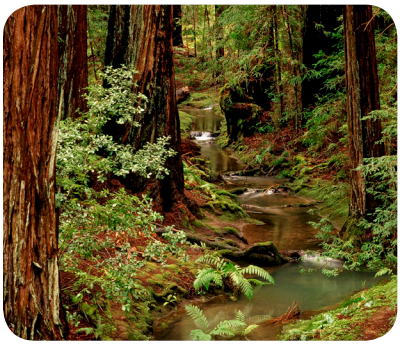
An organism that gets energy and matter by eating other organisms; to use goods produced by natural or human social systems; or, one who uses energy resources.

D

disrupt

To stop or interrupt the usual way something works.

E



ecosystem

A community of plants, animals, and their surroundings that depend on each other.

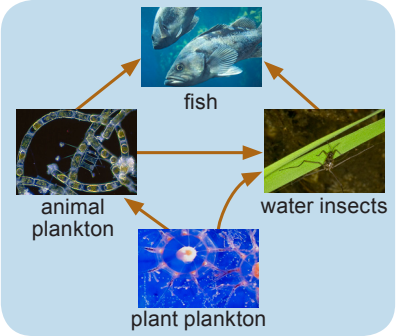
F

food chain

The order of feeding among organisms, such as a mouse eating seeds and an owl eating a mouse.

food web

A group of connected food chains in an ecosystem.



H

herbivore

An organism that gets energy from the matter in plants and other producers.

M

marine

Having to do with a saltwater ecosystem, such as the ocean.

O

omnivore

An organism that gets energy and matter by eating both plants and animals.

P

plankton

Plants and animals that swim weakly or drift with currents in fresh or salt water.

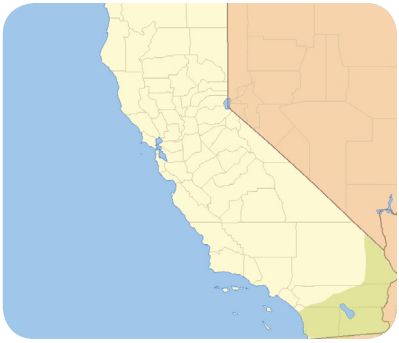
producer

An organism (plant or alga) that converts light energy to chemical energy stored in carbohydrates.

R

range

The entire region in which an organism or ecosystem is naturally found.



Unit Title: **The Flow of Energy Through Ecosystems**
Grade: **4**

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