All About Ecosystems

Name__________________________
## Similarities

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<th>Plants</th>
<th>Animals</th>
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## Differences

<table>
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Producers, Consumers, & Decomposers

- **Producers**: organisms that can make their own food.
  - Example: plants

- **Consumers**: organisms that cannot make their own food and rely on plants and other animals for food.
  - Examples: animals and humans
  - There are three groups of consumers:
    - **Herbivores**: eat only plants
    - **Carnivores**: eat only animals/meat
    - **Omnivores**: eat both plants and animals/meat

- **Decomposers**: a microorganism that eats dead animals and plants.
  - Examples: fungi and bacteria

**Directions**: Count the number of producers, consumers, and decomposers you see. Write the number on the lines below.

_____ Producers  _____ Consumers  _____ Decomposers
1) **Food Chain**: a __________________ series of organisms each dependent on the next as a source of ________________.

2) A food chain begins with a _______________ and ends with an ________________.

3) ________________, ________________, and ________________ are all important parts of the food chain.

4) Producers create all of the ________________ in the food chain.

5) The consumers use all the ________________ in the food chain.

6) As you move along the food chain ________________ is ________________.

7) Organisms become ________________ further down the food chain.

8) **Food Web**: system of ________________ and ________________ food chains.

9) The five Trophic Levels of the food chain are:
   - **Level 1**: ________________
   - **Level 2**: ________________
   - **Level 3**: ________________
   - **Level 4**: ________________
   - **Level 5**: ________________
1) **Food Chain**: a *hierarchical* series of organisms each dependent on the next as a source of *energy*.

2) A food chain begins with a *plant* and ends with an *animal*.

3) *Producers, consumers, and decomposers* are all important parts of the food chain.

4) Producers create all of the *energy* in the food chain.

5) The consumers use all the *energy* in the food chain.

6) As you move along the food chain *energy* is lost.

7) Organisms become *less* further down the food chain.

8) **Food Web**: system of *interlocking* and *interdependent* food chains.

9) The five Trophic Levels of the food chain are:
   - **Level 1**: producers
   - **Level 2**: primary consumers (herbivores)
   - **Level 3**: secondary consumers (carnivores)
   - **Level 4**: tertiary consumers (carnivores)
   - **Level 5**: apex predators (top animal)