Energy Flow

Chapter 3.2

What is the primary source of energy?

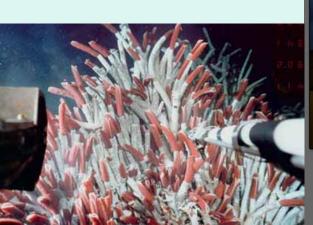
- Sunlight = main source of energy for all life
 - We use only 1% of the sun's energy
- Chemical Energy some organisms rely on chemical compounds
 - Certain bacteria near hot springs, deep ocean volcanic vents, (rare)

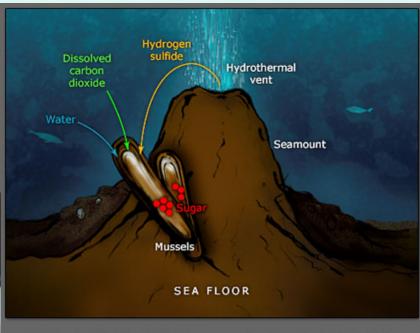
- chemosynthesis



Chemosynthesis

- Use energy in chemical bonds
- Hydrogen Sulfide and methane
- Certain bacteria that live freely or inside other animals like tube worms and mussels
- Deep sea Volcanic vents
- Hot springs
- marshes





Autotrophs

- Capture energy from sun (or chemicals) to produce food.
 - Producers
- Photosynthesis
 - Carbon dioxide + water → carbohydrates + oxygen
 - Plants, algae, cyanobacteria







Heterotrophs

- Rely on other organisms for food/energy
- Consumers
- Animals, fungi, bacteria
- Herbivores eat plants (cow)
- Carnivores eat meat (lion)
- Omnivores eat plants and meat (bear)
- Detritivores (scavengers)

 eat plant and animal remains (worms, crabs)
- Decomposers break down organic matter (fungi, bacteria)













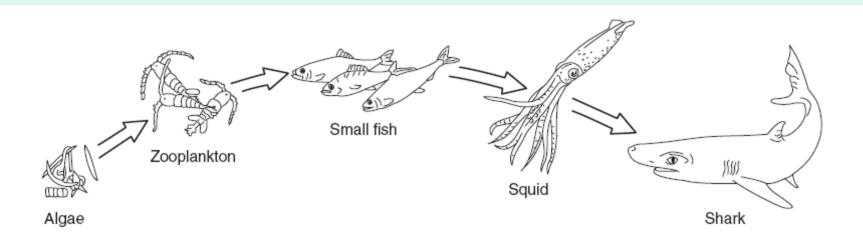






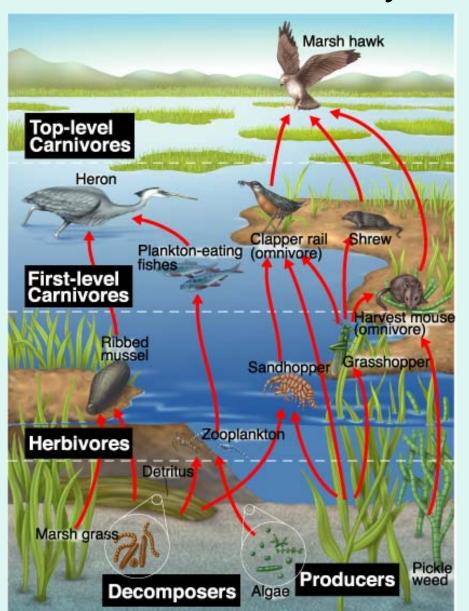
Energy Flow

- Sun or chemicals → producers → consumers
- Food chains energy stored by producer can be passed along to consumers in one direction



Food Web

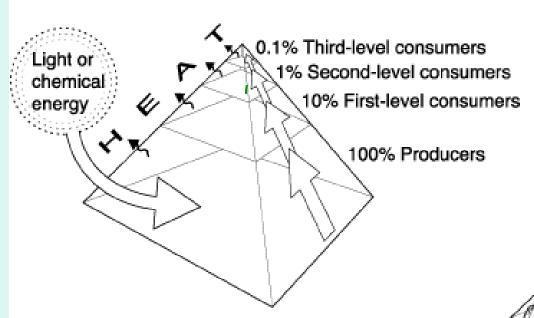
Links all chains within an ecosystem



Trophic Levels

- Each new step in the food chain/web
- Consumers depend on tropic level below for food/energy
- 10% of energy is passed on to next level
- Rest is used (life processes) or lost as heat

Energy Pyramid
Shows the relative amount of energy available at each trophic level



Biomass Pyramid

Represents the amount of living organic matter at each trophic level. Typically, the greatest biomass is at the base of the pyramid.

