

## Chapter 5 How Ecosystems Work

### Section 1: Energy Flow in Ecosystems

#### Preview

- Objectives
- Life Depends on the Sun
- From Producers to Consumers
- An Exception to the Rule
- What Eats What?
- Burning the Fuel
- Energy Transfer
- Food Chains
- Food Webs
- Trophic Levels
- Energy Loss Affects Ecosystems

#### Objectives

- List two examples of ecological succession.
- Explain how a pioneer species contributes to ecological succession.
- Explain what happens during old-field succession.
- Describe how lichens contribute to primary succession.

#### Life Depends on the Sun

- Energy from the sun enters an ecosystem when plants use sunlight to make sugar molecules.
- This happens through a process called photosynthesis.
- Photosynthesis is the process by which plants, algae, and some bacteria use sunlight, carbon dioxide, and water to produce carbohydrates and oxygen.



#### From Producers to Consumers

- Because plants make their own food, they are called *producers*.
- A producer is an organism that can make organic molecules from inorganic molecules.
- Producers are also called autotrophs, or self-feeders.
- Organisms that get their energy by eating other organisms are called *consumers*.
- A consumer is an organism that eats other organisms or organic matter instead of producing its own nutrients or obtaining nutrients from inorganic sources.
- Consumers are also called heterotrophs, or other-feeders.
- Some producers get their energy directly from the sun by absorbing it through their leaves.
- Consumers get their energy indirectly by eating producers or other consumers.

#### An Exception to the Rule

# How Ecosystems Work Chapter Test Biology Answer Key

**Michael Brown**



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