

ENERGY ROLES IN ECOSYSTEMS

PRODUCER

- can make its own food using photosynthesis
- ex. grasses, algae, plants, blue green bacteria
- contain chlorophyll
- also called **AUTOTROPH**

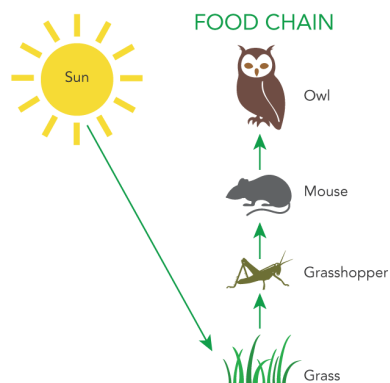
CONSUMER

- cannot make its own food
- ex. animals, humans, fungi, bacteria
- must "eat" or consume food
- also called **HETEROTROPH**

(herbivores, carnivores, omnivores, parasites, scavengers, decomposer)

DECOMPOSER

- also consumers (heterotrophs)
- ex. bacteria and fungi
- break down organisms into simple compounds and elements
- **responsible to make food chains into FOOD CYCLES**



a food web shows the complex interconnectedness of all organisms in the community