

Unit 9 - Population Dynamics

Environmental Factors:

- Abiotic = non-living chemical and physical factors in an ecosystem (ex: water, sunlight, humidity)
- Biotic = living or once living factor in an ecosystem (ex: plants, animals, bacteria, fungi)

Producers (Autotrophs): an organism that can make their own food (often from sunlight)

Ex: tree, grass, flowers

Consumer (Heterotroph): an organism that has to eat to obtain energy

Ex: humans, deer, ants

1. Herbivore = organism that eats only plants

2. Carnivore = organism that eats only animals

3. Omnivore = organism that eats both plants and animals

- Primary Consumer = eats the producer

- Secondary Consumer = eats the primary consumer

- Tertiary Consumer = eats the secondary consumer

- Quaternary Consumer = eats the tertiary consumer

grass (producer) → rabbit (PC) → snake (SC) → owl (TC) → wolf (QC)

Decomposer: an organism that feeds on dead organisms and waste

Ex: worms, mushrooms