



Ecosystems and trophic relationships

ST

PAGES 318–322

Complete this Concept Review so you can keep a record of what you have learned.

Definitions

- An ecosystem is a community of living organisms interacting with one another and with the nonliving components of the environment they inhabit.
- Trophic relationships are the feeding connections among the living organisms in an ecosystem.
- Producers are autotrophic organisms with the ability to create organic matter from inorganic matter in an ecosystem.
- Consumers are heterotrophic organisms that feed on other living organisms.
- Decomposers are organisms that feed on the waste and remains of other living organisms.

Categories of matter

Category	Description	Examples
<i>Inorganic matter</i>	<u>Matter that is not necessarily produced by living organisms.</u>	<u>Water, mineral salts</u>
<i>Organic matter</i>	<u>Matter that enters into the composition of living organisms and that is usually created by them.</u>	<u>Proteins, lipids</u>