

Food Chain

Name: _____ Code: _____

I UNIT – Date: _____

Part I

Instructions: Use the context clues in the text to fill in the blanks using the words in the words box.

An _____ includes _____ and _____ factors in an area, such as water, soil, animals, rocks, and plants. It includes all the plants, animals, and other living things that make up the community of life in an area.

_____ is transferred throughout the ecosystem. All plants and animals get energy from the _____, or plants absorb the sun's energy, also called thermal energy, and make their own food through a process called _____.

_____, animals that are _____ (which are animals that eat only producers), digest the plants to obtain their energy. This is called a _____ consumer, such as a mouse. _____ consumers (typically omnivores or carnivores), such as a snake, digest the primary consumers, transferring that energy. A hawk would be considered a _____ consumer, as it eats the snake that ate the mouse, that ate the plants. If another animal, such as a fox or eagle, eats the hawk, they would be a _____ consumer.

As energy moves up _____ levels in a _____ the energy amount _____ because energy is lost as metabolic heat. A food chain can usually sustain no more than six energy transfers before all the energy is used up.

When producers and consumers die, their materials _____ or break down. Decomposers are fungi, bacteria, and _____. This is the final link in the food chain. Decomposers return vital _____ to the soil. Some of these organisms can be seen, like fungi and insects, but much of the decomposition process is carried out by microscopic _____.

WORD BOX

Abiotic
Energy
Producers
Bacteria
Food Chain
Quaternary
Biotic
Herbivores
Secondary
Consumers
Insects
Sun
Decompose
Nutrients
Tertiary
Decreases
Photosynthesis
Trophic
Ecosystem
Primary