

An **ecosystem** is a community of organisms that live together in a particular habitat. An ecosystem includes the **interactions** between the living things and the non-living things.

Abiotic components are the non-living things.

Biotic components are the living things.

The **biotic** of an ecosystem are all the living things. They include **plants, animals** and other living things, such as **algae, fungi** and **bacteria**.

Consumers are living organisms that cannot make their own food. They obtain the energy they need from other living things. All animals are consumers. Depending on what they eat, they can be:

- **Primary consumers:** animals that eat producers.
- **Secondary consumers:** animals that eat primary consumers.
- **Tertiary consumers:** animals that eat secondary consumers.

Producers are living organisms that make their own food. They take energy from sunlight to produce their food through **photosynthesis**. Plants are producers. Sunlight is the primary source of energy for all living things.



There are two groups of living organisms that feed on the remains of dead animals or dead plants:

- feed on the remains of dead animals. Hyenas and vultures are scavengers.
- break down plant waste and the remains of living things into minerals that return to the soil. These minerals are then absorbed by plants. Earthworms, fungi and moulds are decomposers.



abiotic/biotic/biotic component/carnivores/consumers/
 decomposers (3)/ecosystem/herbivores/interaction/plants/primary/
 producers/scavengers (2)/secondary/tertiary