**ACTIVITY 4.** Watch and listen the video to complete.

**YouTube Free School:** Understanding Ecosystems for Kids: Producers, Consumers, Decomposers

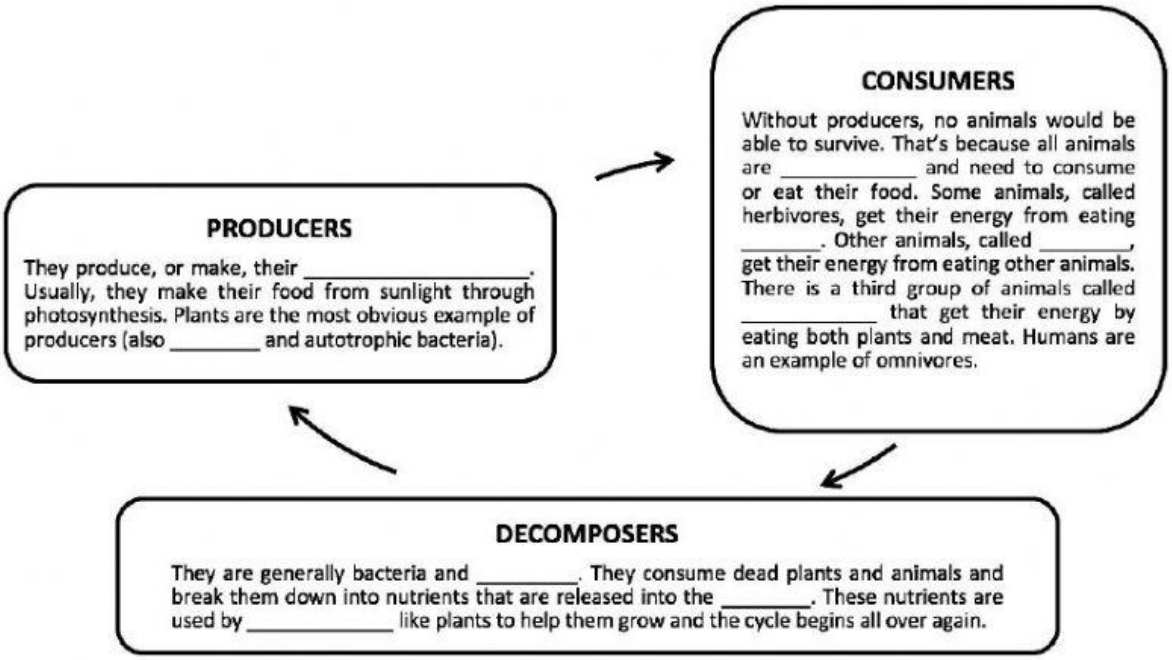
The Earth is covered in living things. From very large organisms to the tiniest creatures, all living things on Earth have one thing in common: they cannot survive alone. To grow and flourish, living things need the support of an _____.

An ecosystem is what we call all the things that interact in a specific area, both _____ and non-living. Ecosystems can be hard to define. They are interconnected in many ways, and it is not always easy to see _____ one ecosystem ends and another begins. Different ecosystems may look very similar or very different from one another, but all ecosystems are made of the same basic parts. Ecosystems have both living and non-ling parts:

- The non-living parts of an ecosystem include things like _____ and _____, _____ and _____, the types and amount of _____ available and _____ and _____ (abiotic factors).
- The living parts of an ecosystem are the _____ and _____ in it, also fungi, protoctists and bacteria (biotic factors).

The non-living parts of an ecosystem combine to create the conditions that will determine what kinds of living things will be able to _____ there. You won't find a coral reef in the desert or cactus in the ocean, because the conditions are wrong for them to live and grow.

There are three main types of living things in an ecosystem: producers, consumers and decomposers:



All the parts of an ecosystem must work _____ to reach a balance that allows each of the members of the system to thrive.

- For example, in a _____ **ECOSYSTEM** predators _____ the population of rabbits from growing too large because when there are too many rabbits they eat too many plants. If rabbits ate too many plants, the plants would not able to grow back fast enough and other animals that need the plants would not have enough to eat. Without enough plants the animals that depend on them for food would start to die and the soil begins to erode, or wash away, which makes it harder for new plants to grow in the future.
- **ECOSYSTEMS** can become _____ when something _____ their normal workings. Anything from bad weather to diseases to an erupting volcano can disturb an ecosystem. _____ activity can also damage the balance of natural ecosystems. By cutting down trees and clearing forests, building roads and cities, killing some animals, introducing new ones or creating pollution, it can become impossible for the plants and animals in an ecosystem to grow and thrive.

In most cases, ecosystems can recover and regain a healthy balance if given enough time and an opportunity to rest from whatever disturbed them in the first place.

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