

The Eco Pyramid Comprehension Questions

1. What is an ecosystem?

- A. a process in which plants take carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and hydrogen from water, and release oxygen into the atmosphere
- B. a group of living organisms interacting with one another as well as with nonliving things
- C. a predator that lies at the top of the food chain and may feed on plants, primary consumers, or secondary consumers
- D. an organism that attaches itself to dead tertiary consumers and breaks down the matter of their bodies

2. What is a list of the types of organisms in an eco pyramid?

- A. nonliving things, bacteria, fungi, sunlight, water secondary consumers, tertiary consumers
- B. primary consumers, deer, bacteria, fungi, nonliving things, tertiary consumers
- C. producers, primary consumers, secondary consumers, tertiary consumers
- D. primary producers, primary consumers, secondary consumers, carbohydrates, water

3. In an ecosystem, primary consumers eat plants. Secondary consumers eat primary consumers. Tertiary consumers eat secondary consumers. What can be concluded from this information?

- A. Plants need both carbon dioxide and water for photosynthesis to occur.
- B. Different types of organisms within an ecosystem need each other to live.
- C. Bacteria and fungi are needed to break down the dead bodies of producers and consumers.
- D. Light from the sun is necessary for most ecosystems on Earth to get going.

4. Which members of an ecosystem are part of the energy flow?

- A. ONLY the living things in the ecosystem
- B. ONLY the nonliving things in the ecosystem
- C. living and nonliving things in the ecosystem
- D. the energy flow is not dependent on any members of the ecosystem

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5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A. the energy flow of an ecosystem and the different types of organisms within an ecosystem
- B. the function of secondary consumers and their importance to an ecosystem
- C. the problems for ecosystems that result from humans hunting animals such as deer and tigers
- D. the creation of body heat in primary consumers and the release of that heat into the atmosphere

6. Read the following sentences:

“Energy is transferred again in an ecosystem’s energy flow from primary consumers to ‘secondary consumers.’ Carnivores, or meat eaters, act as secondary consumers. Lions, tigers, and polar bears are carnivorous. They eat the meat of the herbivores after a hunt. When tigers eat their prey’s meat, they go on to digest it and use the energy from it for their own survival.”

What does the word **transferred** mean?

- A. stopped
- B. moved
- C. changed
- D. destroyed

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Living and nonliving things in an ecosystem interact with each other; _____, plants use energy from the sun.

- A. on the other hand
- B. in the end
- C. in particular
- D. previously

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8. What are herbivores?

9. What do secondary consumers eat?

10. If one type of organism described in the passage were removed from an ecosystem, what would happen to the ecosystem? Explain your answer using **evidence from the passage**.