

# **Feeding Relationships, Food Chains, Food Webs**

**IN 73 & 75  
Headings  
Vocabulary  
Important Info**

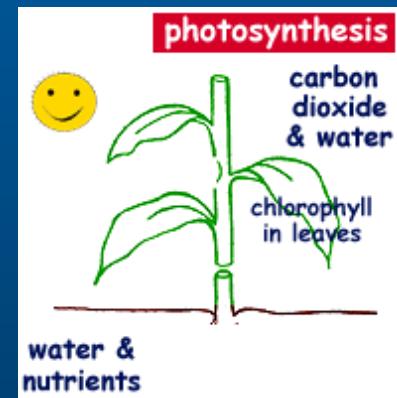
# Feeding Types

## 1. Autotrophs:

a. Self feeders, produce their own food through photosynthesis

- Transformation of light energy to chemical energy to make food in the form of glucose

b. Examples: plants, algae



## 2. Heterotrophs:

- a. Depend on other organisms for their food

1. Herbivore: Eats only plants

2. Carnivore: Eats only meat

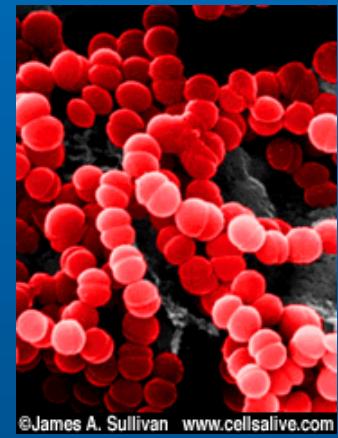
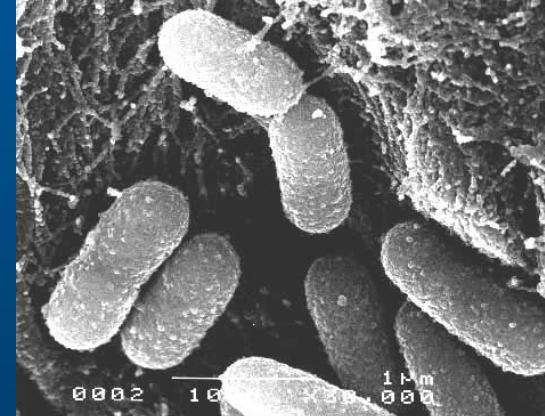
3. Omnivore: Eats both plants and meat



### 3. Decomposers:

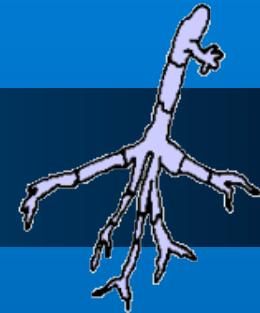
a. Break down and absorb nutrients from dead, decaying organisms

b. Examples: mushrooms and bacteria



# Symbiosis

a. close, permanent relationship between organisms



b. Three major types:

1. Commensalism
2. Mutualism
3. Parasitism



- 1) Mr. Fungus is ready to greet our friend the alga
- 2) Friend alga cell is prepared to greet Mr. Fungus

- 3) The Lichen is created between the fungus and the alga

# Feeding Relationships

## Commensalism:

- a. A feeding relationship in which **one** organism benefits and the **other** is not affected.
- b. Example: Remoras that live on or around a shark's mouth.

\*Remora benefits from the scraps of food that fall from the shark's mouth and the shark is not affected.



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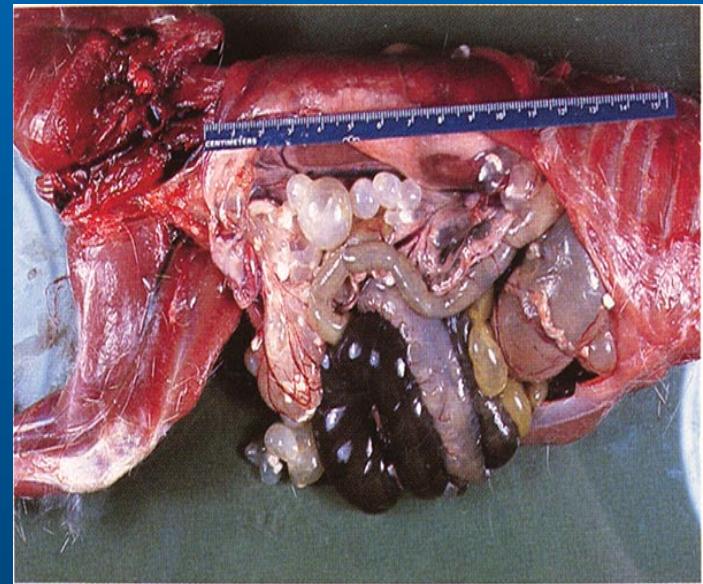
## Mutualism:

- a. Both organisms benefit from the relationship
- b. "you scratch my back and I scratch yours"
- c. Example: tickbirds eat parasites off of the back of zebras. The tickbirds get fed and the zebra gets cleaned.



## Parasitism:

- a. One organism benefits and the other is harmed
- b. Example: tapeworm living inside an organism's intestine (may cause death)
- c. Example: flea living on a dog



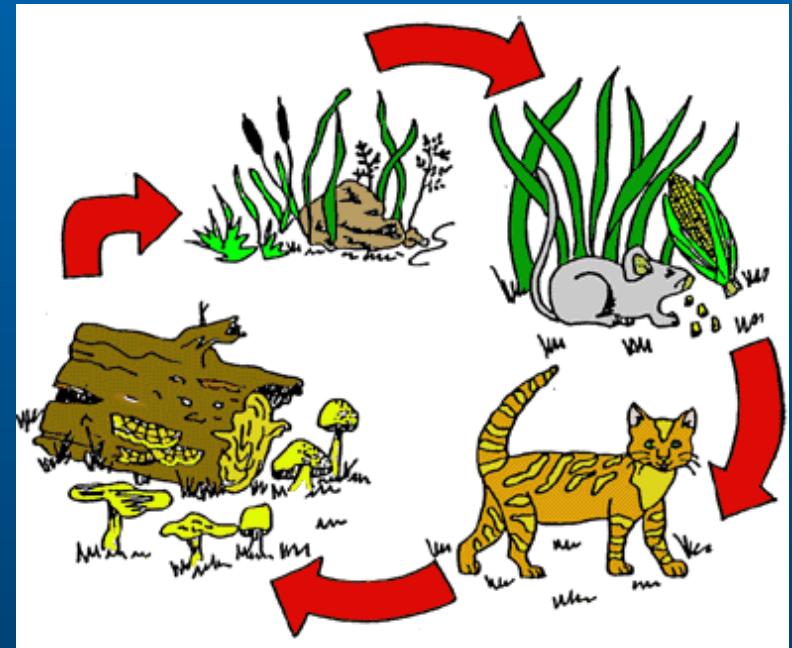
Bladder-like larvae of the tapeworm *Taenia pisiformis* in body cavity of rabbit.

# Food Chains and Food Webs

<http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngexplorer/0309/quickflicks/index.html>

## 1. Food Chain:

- a. model showing the movement of energy through the ecosystem
- b. Consists of Producers, Consumers, and Decomposers
- **Producer:** living organisms that take non-living matter (like minerals and gases) from the environment and use them to support life (**Example:** plants). These are the first organisms in the food chain.
- **Consumer:** living things that need producers to be their food.
  - **EX:** (Herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores)
- **Decomposer:** living things which feed off of dead plants and animals to reduce their remains to minerals and gases again





energy from  
the sun

Producer



grass

## Food Chain

Consumer



grasshopper

Consumer



snake

Consumer



hawk

Decomposer

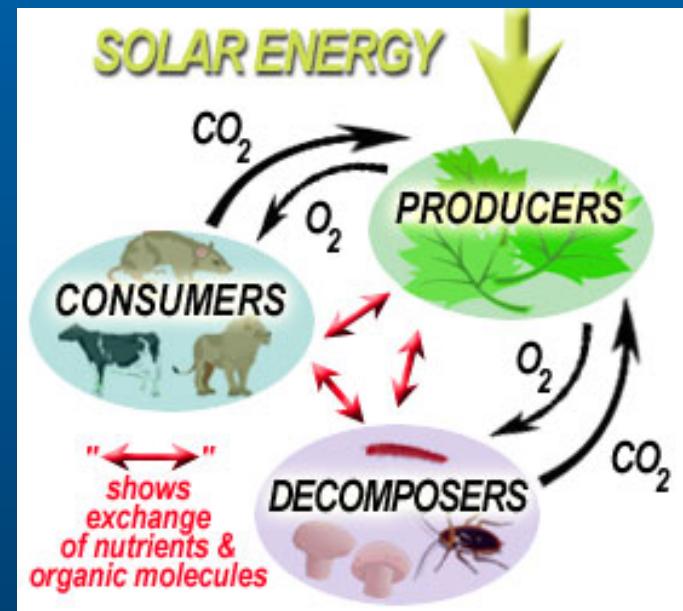


fungi

# Food Chains and Food Webs

## 2. Food Web:

- a. More complicated and more realistic than a food chain
- b. Shows more than one possible food source for each organism
- c. Steps in food chains or food webs are called trophic levels.
- d. Producers make up the first trophic level
- e. Consumers make up second, third, or higher.



- When you read a food chain or food web, the arrows point from what is being eaten to what it is eaten by.

Ex.: mouse → hawk;  
the mouse is  
**EATEN BY**  
the hawk

