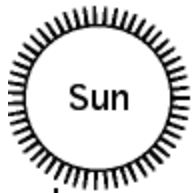
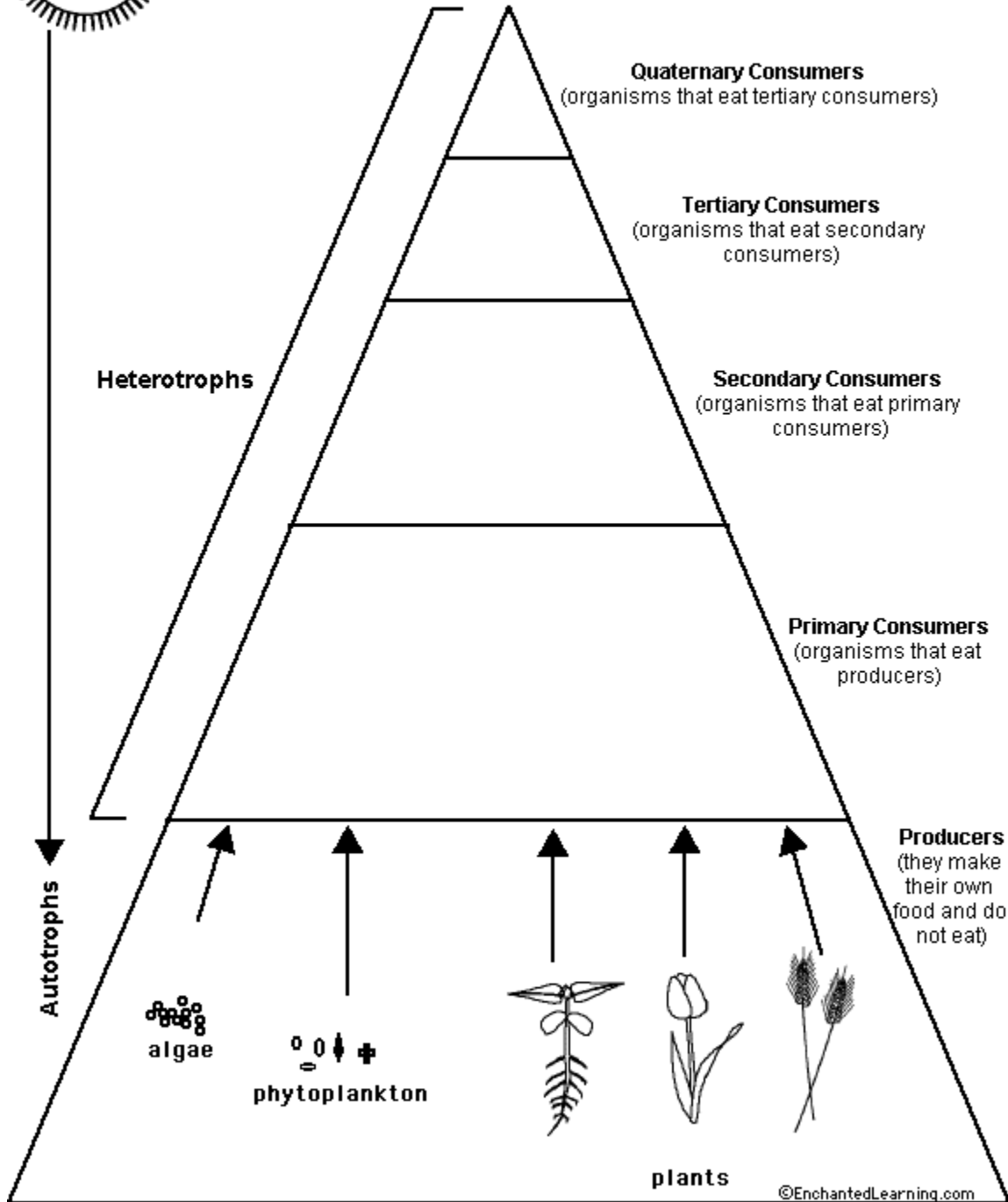


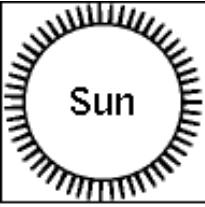
Energy Pyramid Trophic Levels



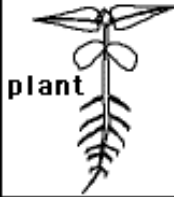
The trophic level of an organism is the position it holds in a food chain. For example, plants are producers, zebras are primary consumers (because they eat grass), and lions are secondary consumers (because they eat zebras).

Write organisms for each trophic level.





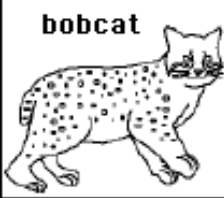
A food chain is a sequence of who eats whom in a biological community. It starts with a primary energy source, like the sun or boiling-hot deep sea vents. The arrows in the chain show the flow of food energy.



The energy source provides the energy for organisms that are able to convert that raw energy into their own food. These organisms (such as plants, phytoplankton, and algae) are called autotrophs or primary producers.



The next link in the chain is organisms that eat autotrophs like plants and algae. These organisms are called primary consumers or herbivores. Some examples are rabbits, deer, tadpoles, and caterpillars.



The next link is organisms that eat primary consumers. These organisms are called secondary consumers. Some examples are bobcats and lions. Chains can be longer than this. The animal at the end of a chain is the top predator (it has no natural enemies).

Questions

1. What do the arrows in a food chain represent? _____

2. A food chain starts with an _____ source.
3. Organisms that make their own food are called _____
or _____.
4. Organisms that eat plants are called _____
or _____.
5. An animal with no natural enemies is a _____.