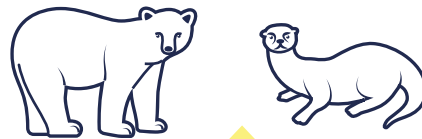


North Carolina Wetlands Food Pyramid

This pyramid represents the flow of energy in a wetland! Each step is called a “trophic level.” It is important to know that as energy passes through each trophic level, it is steadily decreasing. The top consumers need to eat a lot in order to get the energy they need. There are many species within each level of the pyramid.

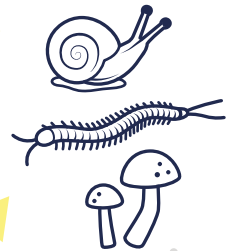
Tertiary Consumers

are typically omnivores, meaning they eat both plants and animals. They can get their energy from any of the lower levels of the pyramid. Common tertiary consumers in North Carolina wetlands include otters, bears, turtles, and ospreys.



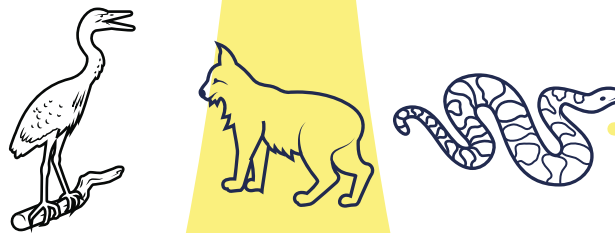
Decomposers

are nature’s recyclers. They break down all the dead plants and animals and recycle the nutrients back to the soil. Examples include fungus, bacteria, and many small insects like beetles and millipedes.



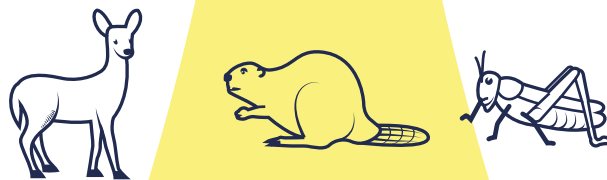
Secondary Consumers

eat primary consumers to get energy. They are typically carnivores, meaning they only eat other animals. Secondary consumers in North Carolina wetlands include alligators, coyotes, foxes, snakes, and bobcats.



Primary Consumers

eat producers to get energy. They are typically herbivores, meaning they only eat plants. Deer, woodpeckers and other small birds, beavers, and ducks are all primary consumers.



Producers

get their energy from the sun and produce their own food through photosynthesis.



ENERGY FROM THE SUN

NUTRIENTS
RECYCLED
INTO SOIL



www.ncwetlands.org

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