



Grassland Habitat

5TH GRADE • 6TH GRADE

SUMMER LESSONS

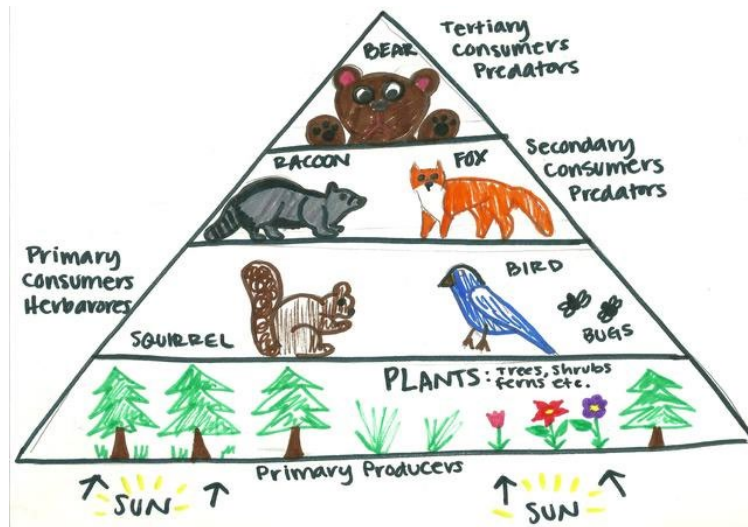


Extended Learning Partnership

Grasslands: What is a Habitat?

Today you learned about the grassland ecosystem and some of the animals that play part in this exciting ecosystem. You might be watching the video and wondering why the rhinos don't eat the wildebeest or how they all survive together? This is due to the trophic levels that we will learn about today.

Every organism plays an important role in the ecosystem. An ecosystem starts with producers. These are plants that get their energy from the sun. Next are consumers, these are animals that eat producers and other animals. Can you think of any consumers? In the category of consumers there are many levels. The animals who eat the plants are called primary consumers. A predator who eats other animals are called secondary consumers. A predator who eats that animal is called a tertiary consumer. This will continue until you end with an apex predator. Here is an example of the trophic levels in an ecosystem.



Lastly, there are decomposers. These are organisms that break down dead or decaying matter. In the trophic pyramid, do you notice the sun? The movement of matter all starts with the sun because this is how producers get their energy. Do you notice where the herbivores, omnivores and carnivores are located? This shows the role each plant and animal have in the ecosystem.

Activity:

- Watch the grassland video again and create your own trophic pyramid. Label each animal as either primary, secondary, or tertiary consumers. Think about what type of animals would be decomposers and add them to your pyramid!

Writing prompt:

- What position on the trophic pyramid do you think plays the most important role? Why?
- Think about these questions as you write.
 - What would happen if there were not any producers, consumers or decomposers?
 - Why are decomposers so important in an ecosystem?
 - What would happen if one of the levels did not exist?

Math:

- The elephant's trunk was measured to be $6\frac{1}{8}$ feet long. Convert this to a decimal and round it to the nearest tenth.
- The following data represents the speed of different cheetahs. Use the data to find the mean and median speed.
 - 55mph, 60mph, 45mph, 63mph, 56mph, 50mph, 62mph, 59mph, 62mph, 49mph, and 63mph

Check for Understanding:

- Why are all parts of the trophic levels important?

