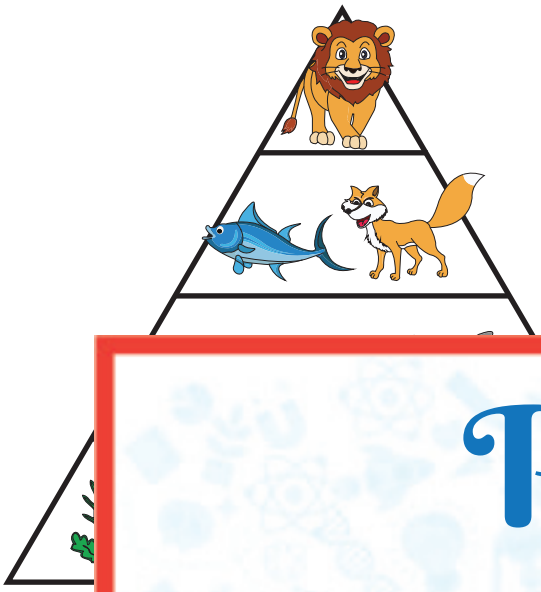
Food Chain

Energy Flow in the Ecosystem



Ecosystems operate as intricate networks of biological interactions, similar to a well-organized metropolis. Central to these interactions is the captivating

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Moving upward in the pyramid, we find the primary consumers, herbivores that subsist on plant-based nourishment. Within a forest, such consumers include deer, squirrels, and rabbits, all of which consume vegetation to sustain themselves.

Continuing up the trophic levels, we encounter the secondary consumers, carnivorous species that prey upon the primary consumers. In a marine ecosystem, exemplars of these secondary consumers are dolphins, known to hunt fish and smaller marine creatures.

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At the apex of the pyramid, we find the tertiary consumers, the top predators of the food chain, such as lions in an African savanna or wolves in North American forests. They secure their energy by preying on other carnivores.

A salient characteristic of energy flow in ecosystems is the significant energy loss at each trophic level, a phenomenon often referred to as the "10% rule." This rule dicta l, while pyra bly narro ng a capti lance of life m of our v

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1) Can you provide examples of primary producers in various ecosystems?

2)

3) Describe a secondary consumer and offer an example from a marine ecosystem.

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4) Explain the significance of the pyramid shape in the context of energy flow.

5)