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LISTENING ACTIVITIES
"NATURAL SCIENCE" (2nd E.S.O.)
UNIT 5: "The structure of ecosystems"

1. Listen and complete the text with the following words. Be careful! Some words are missing.

Tertiary	Primary	Herbivores	Trophic levels	Carnivores	Ecosystem	Food chains	Producers

Break down	Reused	Community	Decomposers	Secondary	Omnivores	Consumers	Food webs

Obtaining food in the ecosystem

a) Trophic levels

In order to perform their life functions, living things take the substances they need for ……………… directly from the …………………… or from other living things. As a consequence, interactions take place among the organisms in the ………………….. This is called a feeding or trophic relationship.

Based on the way organisms obtain their food, they can be classified into ……………….   ……………..

A trophic level consists of all the organisms in an ecosystem which have the same feeding position.
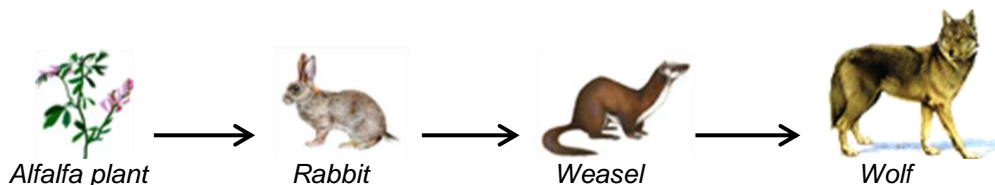There are three trophic levels: the …………………., the consumers and the decomposers.

- **Producers**. They are …………………… organisms: plants, algae and photosynthetic ……………………..
  These organisms produce the …………………… matter they need.

- **……………………**. They are ………………… organisms that consume organic matter from other living things.
  There are several types of consumers:

  - **…………… consumers**. They are ……………………, animals that feed on plants.

  - **…………… consumers**. They eat primary consumers. They can be ……………… or omnivores.

  - **…………… consumers**. They eat secondary or primary consumers. They can be carnivores or ……………

- **…………………..** They feed on dead organic matter from the environment. They include bacteria and ………….
  They ……………   ……...organic matter into …………….. substances, which are then ………… by the producers.

b) Food chains and webs

Organisms depend on each other for nutrition. In order to represent who eats what within a biological …………………., we use food chains.

A **…………   …………** or a **trophic chain** shows all the trophic levels and their feeding relation indicated by arrows, drawings and text.

For example an *alfalfa plant* is food for a *rabbit*. A *rabbit* is eaten by a *weasel*, which in turn, is hunted by a *wolf*.

Alfalfa plant   *Rabbit*   *Weasel*   *Wolf*

However, feeding relationships in ecosystems are not so simple. In general, there are connections among different chains that take a web-like structure, called a …………   …………...

Food webs or **trophic webs** represent all the trophic chains in an ecosystem and how they are interconnected.