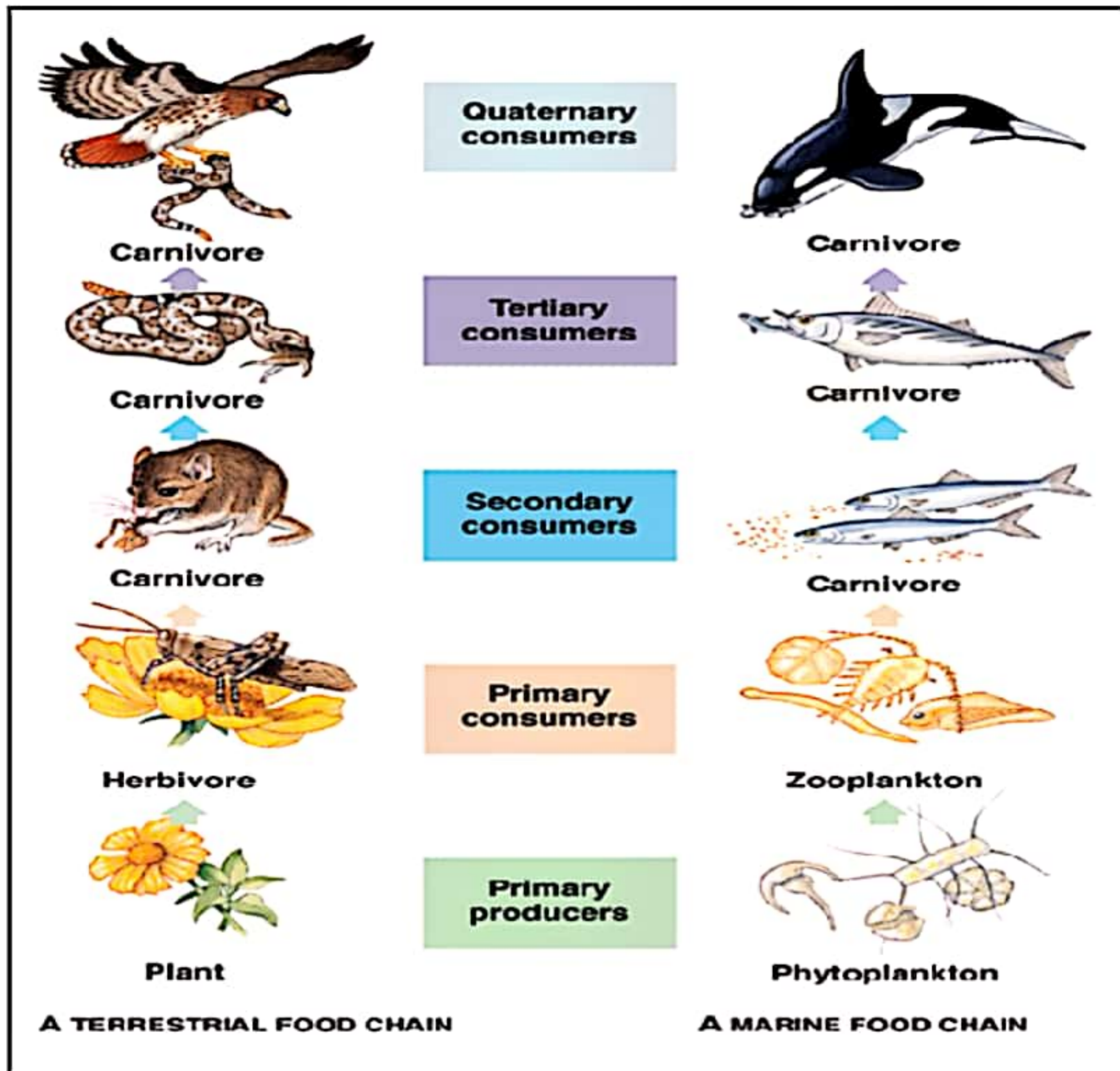
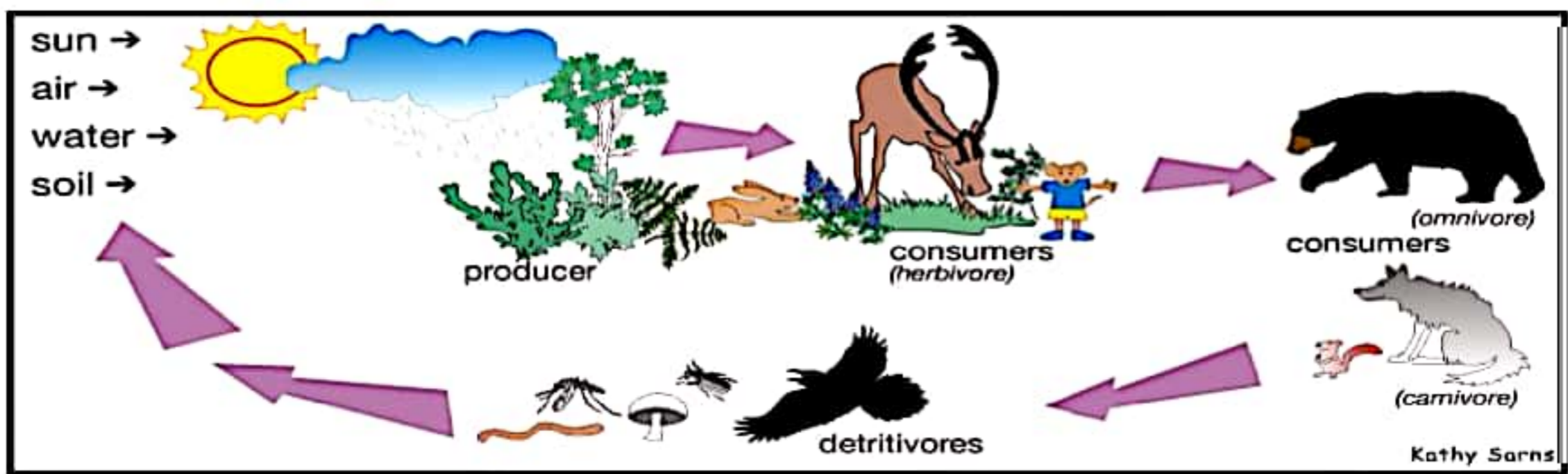


1.2.4 FOOD CHAIN

Plants by photosynthesis convert solar energy into protoplasm. Small herbivores consume the vegetable matter and convert into animal matter which in turn eaten by large carnivores.

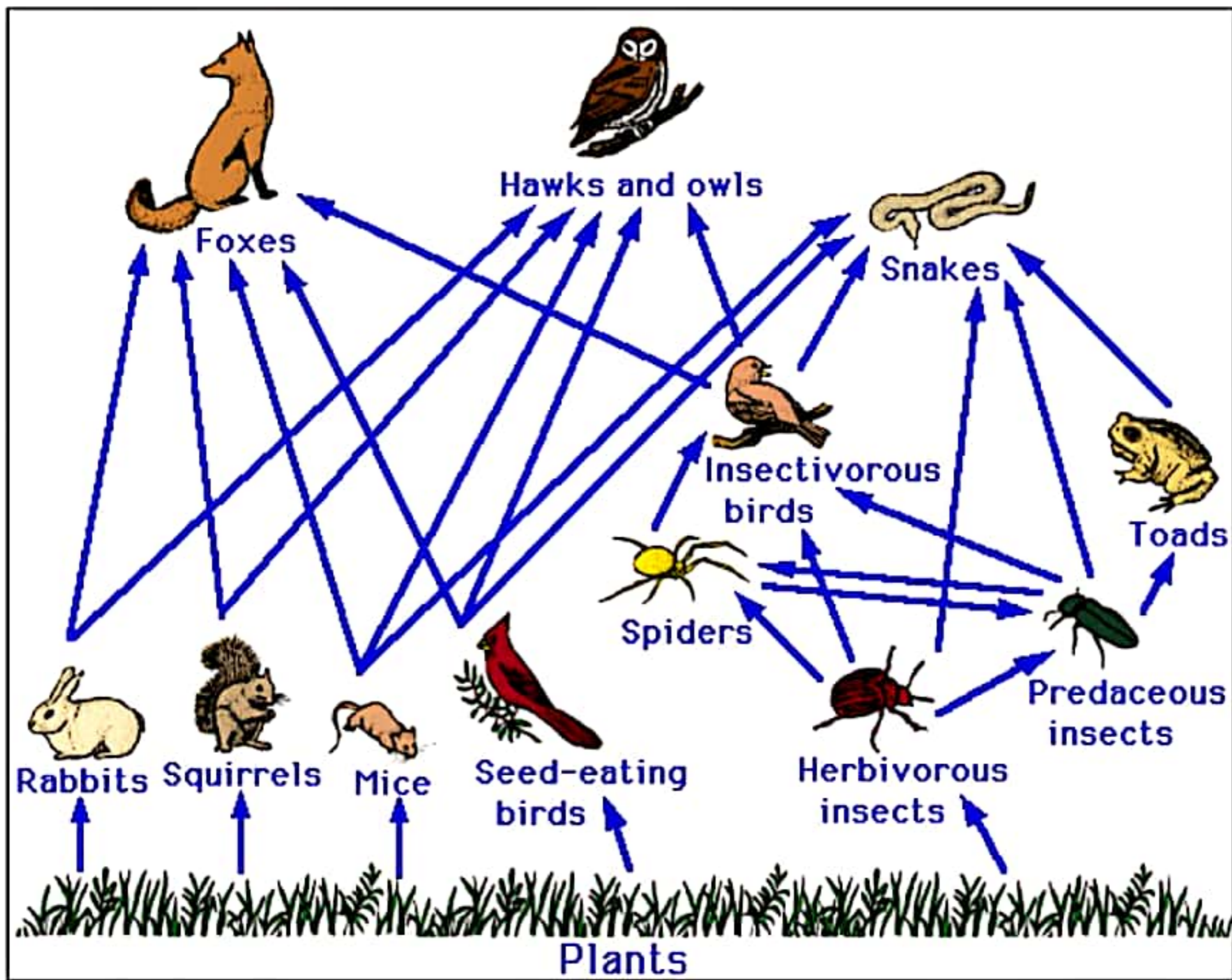
- A food chain may be defined as, “the transfer of energy and nutrients through a series of organisms with repeated process of eating and being eaten”.
- In an ecosystem, all the organisms are linked together with one another by food relationship.
- Each organism living or dead is potential food for some other organism.



Food Chain

1.2.5 FOOD WEB

The food relationship between various organisms is being depicted by linking all the possible prey and predators of different food level. In an ecosystem linking of feeding habit relations will provide a food web or Interlocking pattern of several interlinked food chains is termed as FOOD WEB.

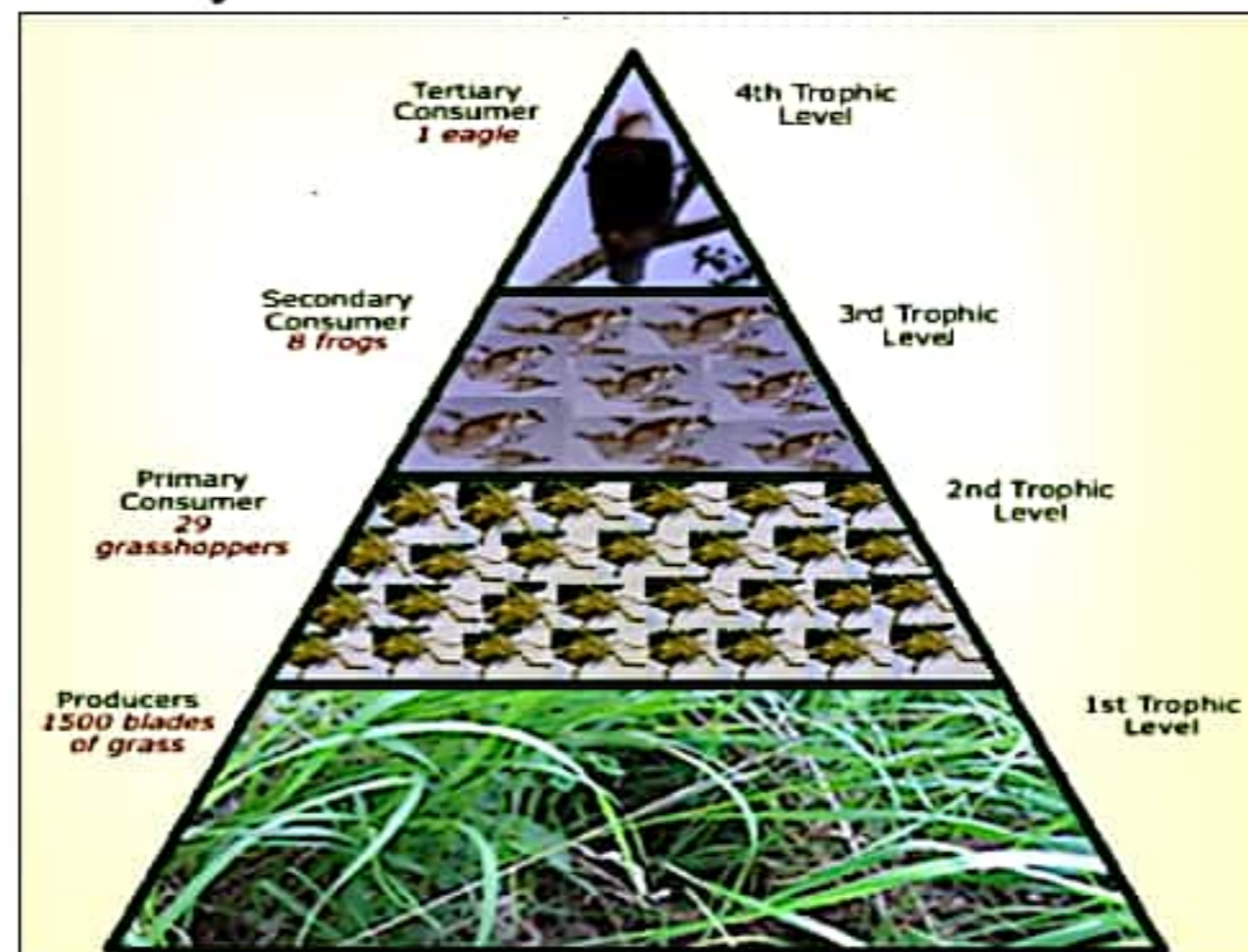


Food web in grassland ecosystem

1.2.6 ECOLOGICAL PYRAMIDS

An "Ecological pyramid" is a graphical representation that shows the relative amounts of energy or matter contained within each trophic level in a food chain or food web.

An ecological pyramid shows the relationship between consumers and producers at different trophic levels in an ecosystem.

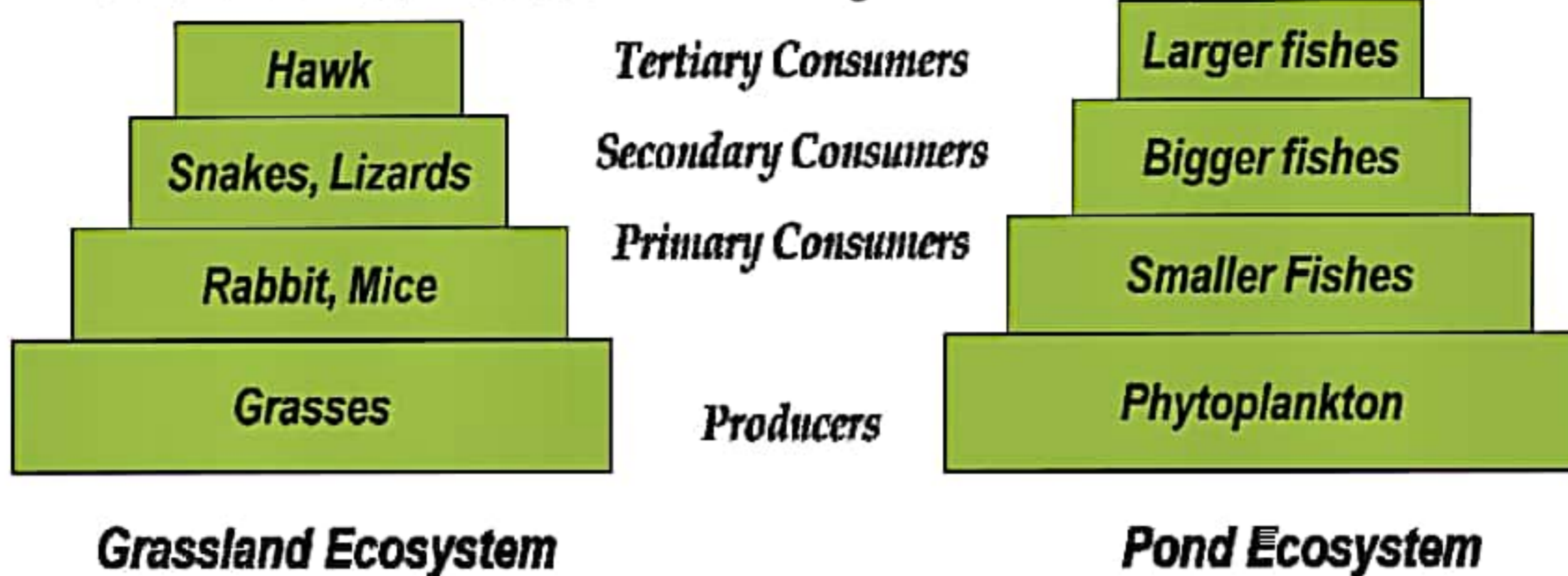


Ecological Pyramid

Types of Ecological Pyramids

Pyramid of Numbers

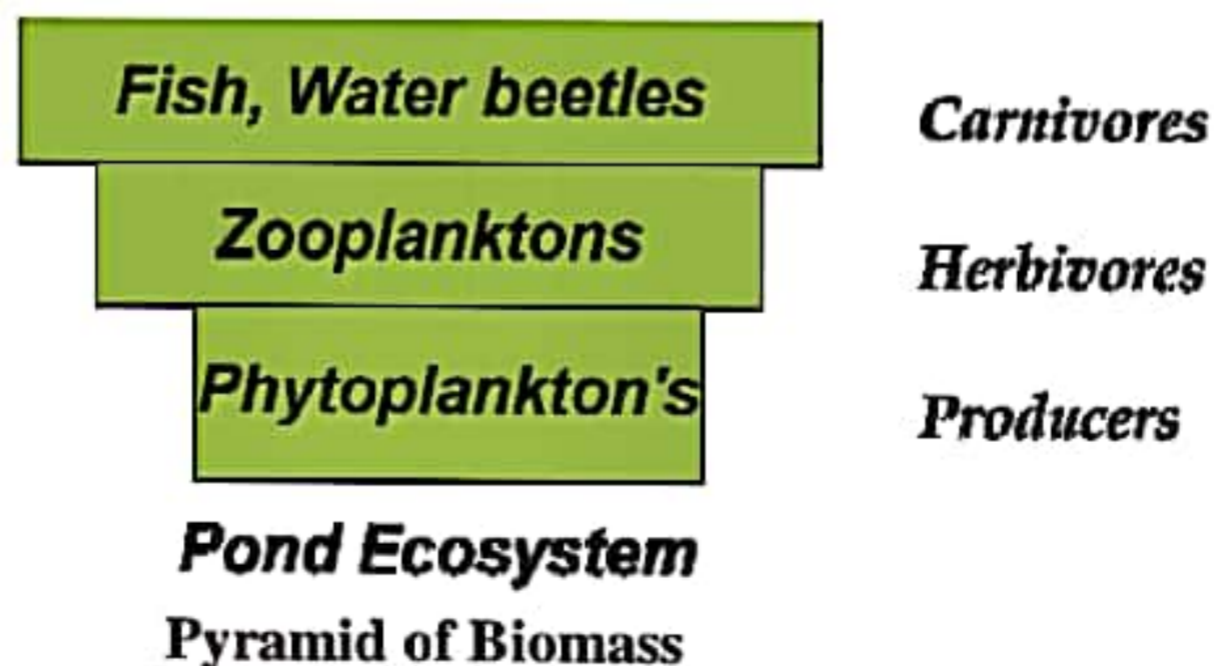
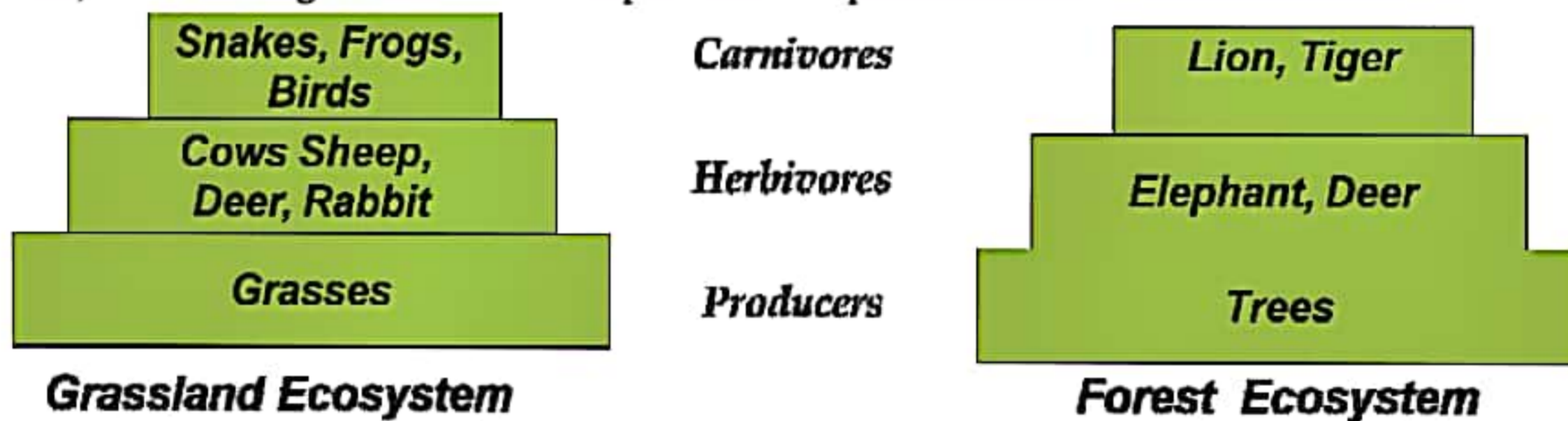
Shows the relative number of individual organisms at each tropic level.



Pyramid of Numbers

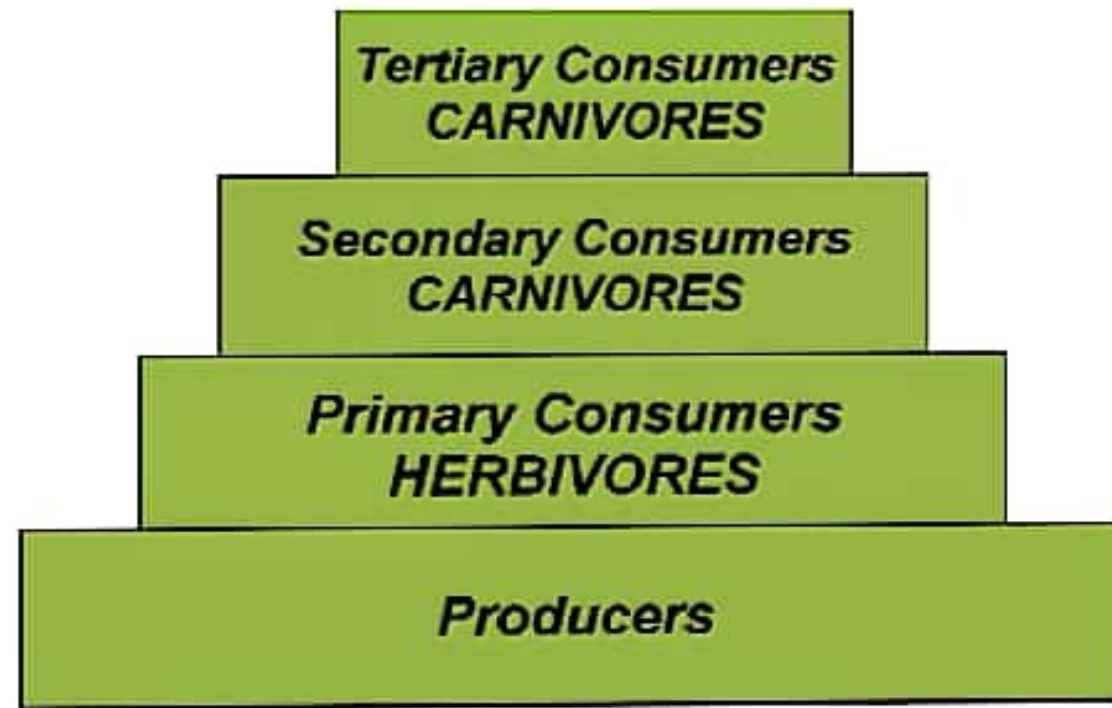
Pyramid of Biomass

A pyramid of biomass represents the total dry mass (in grams per square meter of area) of all the organisms in each tropic level at a particular time.



Pyramid of Energy

A pyramid of biomass represents the rate of energy flow and/or productivity at successive tropic levels. The pyramids of energy are always upright.



Pyramid of Energy