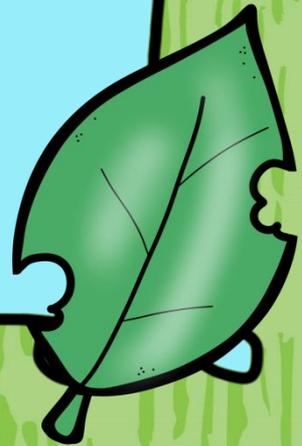


# ECOSYSTEMS

PowerPoint & Notes  
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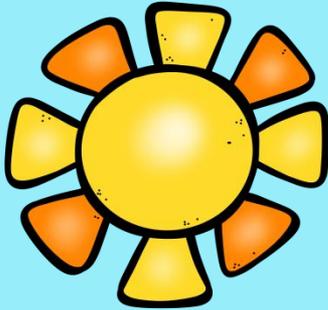


# What is an ecosystem?

- An **ecosystem** is all the living and **nonliving** things that exist and interact in one place.
- An ecosystem describes a specific area where the organisms **work together** as a unit.



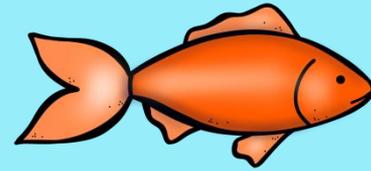
# Abiotic factors



- **Abiotic** factors are all of the nonliving factors that affect an ecosystem.
- To live and grow, plants and animals need **nonliving** things.
- Abiotic factors include **soil, water, air,** and sunlight.

# Biotic factors

- Biotic factors of an ecosystem are all of the **living components** of an ecosystem, such as **plants** and animals.
- Biotic factors can be sorted into three groups: **producers**, consumers, and **decomposers**.



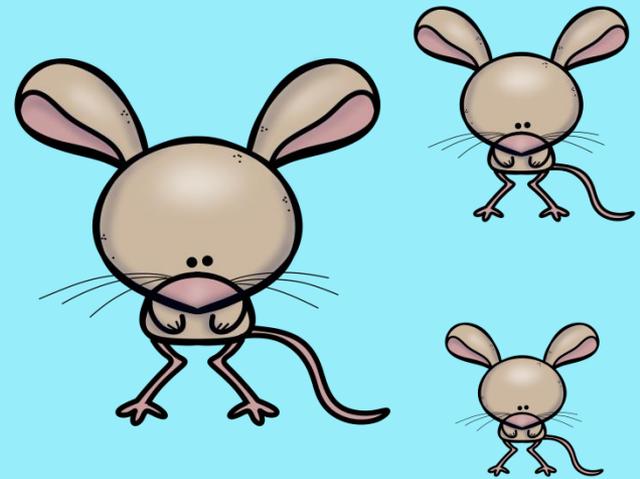
# Environment



- Different ecosystems are **home** to different kinds of living things.
- A living thing can live only in an environment that meets its **needs**.
- An environment is everything that surrounds and **affects** a living thing.

# Community & Population

- All the living things in an ecosystem make up a **community**.
- A population is all the members of **one kind** of plant or animal.
- A community is made up of different **populations**.



# Relationships in an Ecosystem

- In an ecosystem, everything living thing has a **job** to do.
- Living things in an ecosystem depend on **each other** to meet their needs.
- This means they are **interdependent**.



# Producers



- **Plants** play the role of producers.
- A producer is a living thing that makes its **own food**.
- Plants use energy from **sunlight** to make food. This process is called **photosynthesis**.

# Consumers

- **Animals** are consumers.
- When an animal eats a plant, **energy** in the plant moves into the animal.
- A **consumer** gets energy by eating plants, or by eating other animals that eat plants.
- All consumers depend on **producers** for food.



# Decomposers



- Decomposers are organisms that **break down** the remains of dead animals.
- Decomposers turn the unused material into **nutrients** in the soil. These nutrients help plants (producers) **grow**.