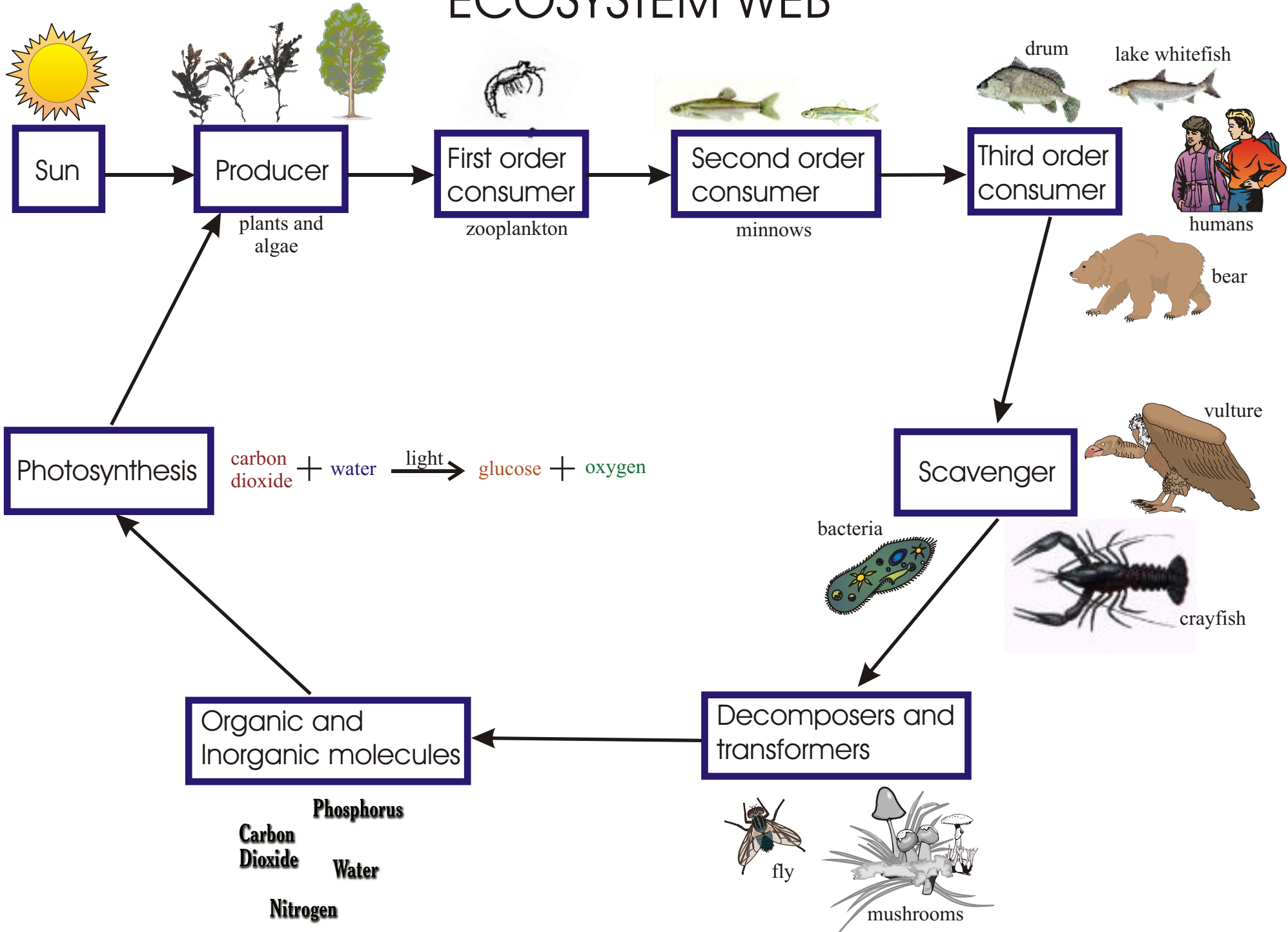


ECOSYSTEM WEB



GLOSSARY

Producer: organism that converts light energy into chemical energy (food, sugar) through photosynthesis.

Photosynthesis: the process of converting light energy into chemical energy in the form of sugar.

Consumer: organism that eats other organisms.

First order consumer: organism that eats producers (plants and algae), also called herbivores.

Second order consumer: organism that eats first order consumers.

Third order consumers: organism that eats second order consumers and possibly first order consumers too.

Carnivore: organism that eats meat or consumes other animals.

Parasite: organism that feeds on other organisms and harms them.

Scavenger: organism that feeds on dead or decaying matter.

Saprophyte: non-green plant, fungi, or bacteria that feeds on dead or decaying matter, an example of a scavenger.

Decomposer: organism that breaks down living and dead plant or animal matter to make organic nutrients available to the ecosystem.

Transformer: organism that converts organic matter to organic nutrients.

Organic molecules: belonging to the class of chemical compounds that have a carbon base; related or derived from living things.

Inorganic molecules: relating to compounds not containing hydrocarbon groups.