



The Environment and Adaptation for Survival

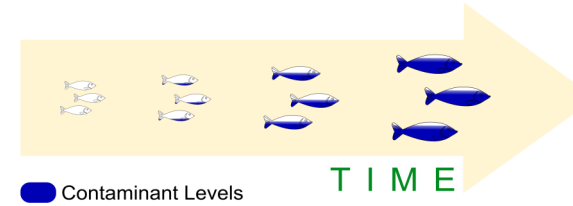


LO: To describe the interactions within ecosystems by discussing living and non-living factors.

Glossary:

Key word	Definition
Producer	Organism that makes its own food - plant during photosynthesis.
Consumer	Organism that eats other organisms for food.
Interdependence	How living organisms depend on each other to survive.
Population	Number of organisms of the same type living together in an a habitat
Bioaccumulation	The build up of toxic chemicals within the organism of a food chain
Ecosystem	The interaction between organisms and non-living factors in a location.
Community	The different types of organism in an ecosystem.
Habitat	The area in which an organism lives.
Competition	Competing with other organisms for resources.
Adaptation	Characterises that help organisms survive in their environments.
Variation	Differences in characteristics within a species - genetic and environmental.
Biodiversity	

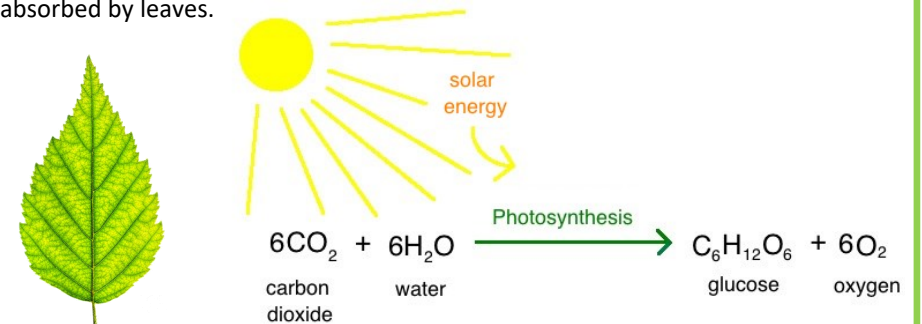
Bioaccumulation: Chemicals such as insecticides and herbicides can be washed into rivers which are then absorbed into the fishes body. Larger fish and seals or



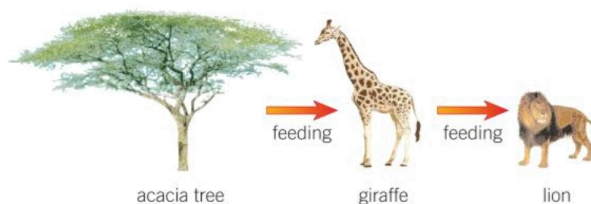
birds etc. then consume larger numbers of fish and so the chemicals build up in their bodies often to harmful levels which can even cause death.

Extension: research the use of DDT and the problems it caused.

Photosynthesis: plants create their own food from the suns energy that is absorbed by leaves.

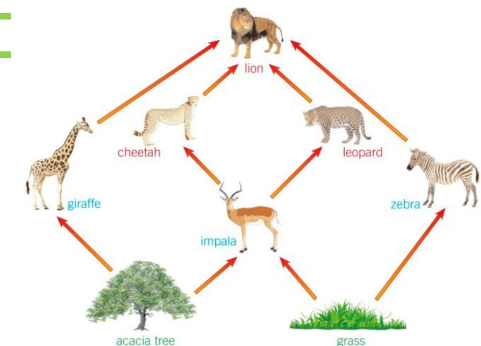


Food chains and food webs:



Animals cannot produce their own food like plants to gain energy by eating other organisms. A simple **food chain** (left) shows energy transferring from the tree (producer) to other organisms (consumers).

When many food chains overlap we have a **food web** (right) this shows how all the organisms interact and become **interdependent** on each other. For example: what would happen to the number of cheetah if all the acacia trees were to die?





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Competition: What do different types of organisms compete for?

Plants	Animals
Light to be able to photosynthesis and produce their own food	Food, so they need to consume other organisms
Water which is needed for photosynthesis	Water for chemical reactions in their body
Space to absorb enough water and light	Territory to provide shelter
Minerals to help with healthy growth	Mates to be able to reproduce

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