

## Mono Lake and Food Webs

### Background:

1. Again, what is an ecosystem?

living organisms + the abiotic factors  
in an area

2. How large or small can an ecosystem be?

as small as an aquarium

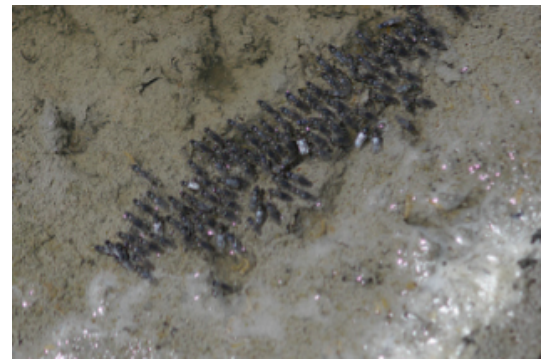
as large as an ocean





Mono Lake





Brine flies



California gull



Brine shrimp

**Mono Lake Video**

1. What two abiotic factors are the most important in the Mono lake ecosystem? (1/2 point)

## Food Chains and Food Webs

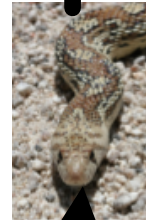
### Background:

1. What is a food chain?

Shows who eats what

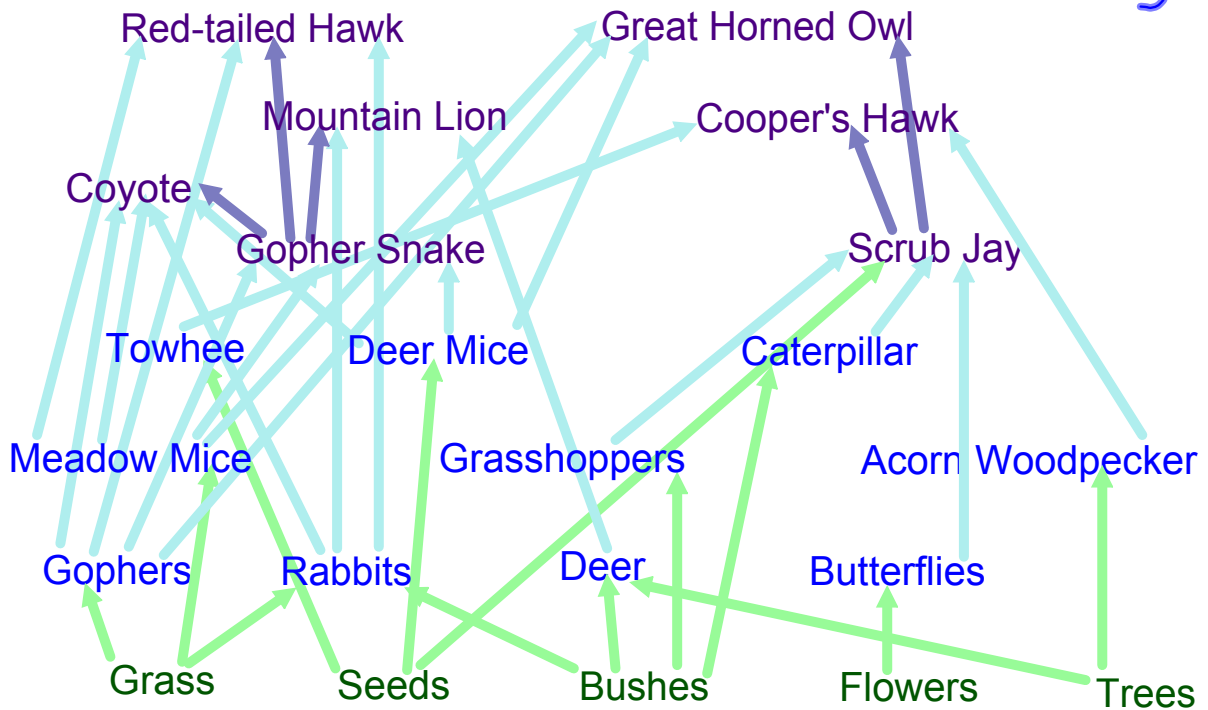
2. How do you draw a food chain?

Arrows show direction  
food is going into  
an animal's mouth



3. What is a food web?

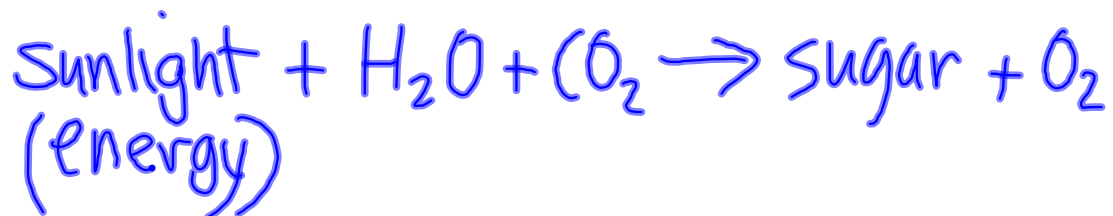
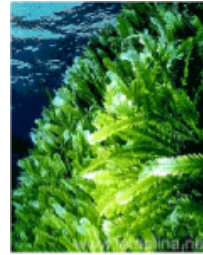
2 or more food chains from an ecosystem



4. There are many “players” in food chains and food webs which can be described in several ways. Below are the terms for this process. Describe them.

Producers

plants - they make (produce) their own food using photosynthesis



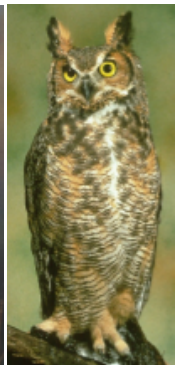
Consumers *eat food*  
Herbivores (primary consumers)

*eat plants*



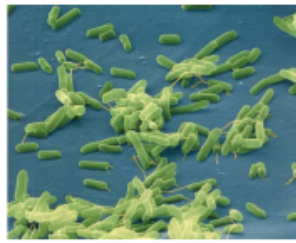
Carnivores (second and third level consumers)

*eat meat*



Decomposers

break down dead material for  
their food.



**Procedure:**

Using the Mono Lake cards and the arrows, put together a food web for Mono Lake.

Make sure you carefully arrange your food web according to the "trophic level".

That means have all the producers on the bottom level, all the herbivores on the next level, and all the secondary consumers, the carnivores on the third level, with any third level consumers on the fourth level.

Have me **check** your food web. When the food web is correct, draw your food web below.

Make sure you **draw** in all the necessary **arrows**.

(1/3 point for each name correctly placed, and 1/3 point for each correct arrow. 9 points total)

Carnivores (Second level carnivores)  
(Third level consumers)

\_\_\_\_\_

Carnivores (First level carnivores)  
(Second level consumers)

\_\_\_\_\_

Herbivores  
(Primary consumers)

\_\_\_\_\_

Producers

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *living organism's name*

Decomposers