

3rd-5th Grade: North American Natives

Distinguish between native and non-native animals, and the roles of both in North American ecosystems.

Description: We share our continent with many diverse species that keep our ecosystems healthy, but non-native species and human activity may impact the health of ecosystems.

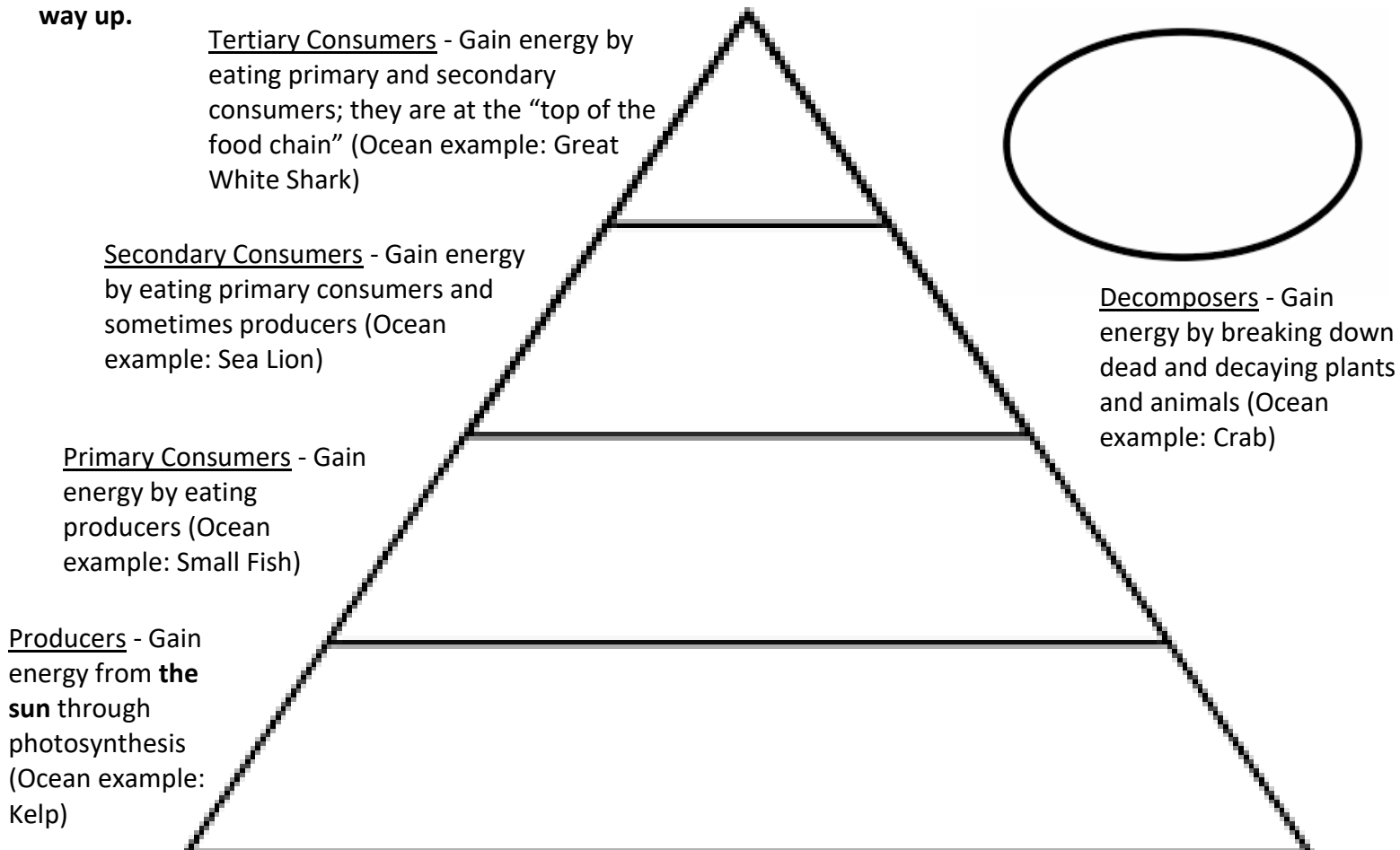
Location at Zoo: Wolf Woods, Swan Lake, World of the Insect, Reptile House

Materials: Pencil, clipboard, colored pencils or crayons

1. **Native** plants and animals are plants and animals that come from and live in the same part of the world as we live! Name 3 wild plants or animals that you have seen around your neighborhood:

1.	2.	3.
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2. **Trophic levels** are the different ranks of living things within a food chain based on where they get their energy from. Add at least one example to each of the levels in the chart below using North American plants and animals you find at Swan Lake, Wolf Woods, World of the Insect, the gardens, and other parts of the Zoo. Your chart may look different from your peers'. It may be helpful to start at the bottom and work your way up.



3. Choose ONE plant or animal from the chart above. What might happen to the ecosystem if all individuals of that species were removed from the web? (Ocean example: What if all of the crabs were removed?)

4. Bruce, Waya, and Shadow are three Mexican wolf brothers living in Wolf Woods. Based on how their faces look (look at the signs in the cabin for help), color in the 2 wolves below based on what you think their parents looked like. Just like people, animals inherit traits from their parents, like hair and eye color.



5. Give one example of a positive (good) change and one example of a negative (bad) change that people could have on North American habitats:

Positive:	Negative:
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6a. Visit Reptile House and choose an animal that is native to North America: _____

6b. Read the signs about the animal you chose. Circle all of the places below that this animal is native to:

My town My state My country My continent

7. Find the Burmese python habitat in Reptile House. Read the signs about these snakes. Circle where these snakes are native to:

North America South America Asia Africa Europe Australia

8. These snakes are invasive to the Everglades in Florida. How did they end up there?

9. Think of a negative effect that a non-native, invasive animal (like the Burmese python) might have on the habitats of native animals.
