

Time Needed

~60 minutes

Materials You Need

Journal

Pencil

Phone, tablet, or Chromebook

iNaturalist

Something to sit on

Things to remember:

Wear sunscreen

You might want insect repellent

Check yourself for ticks when you finish

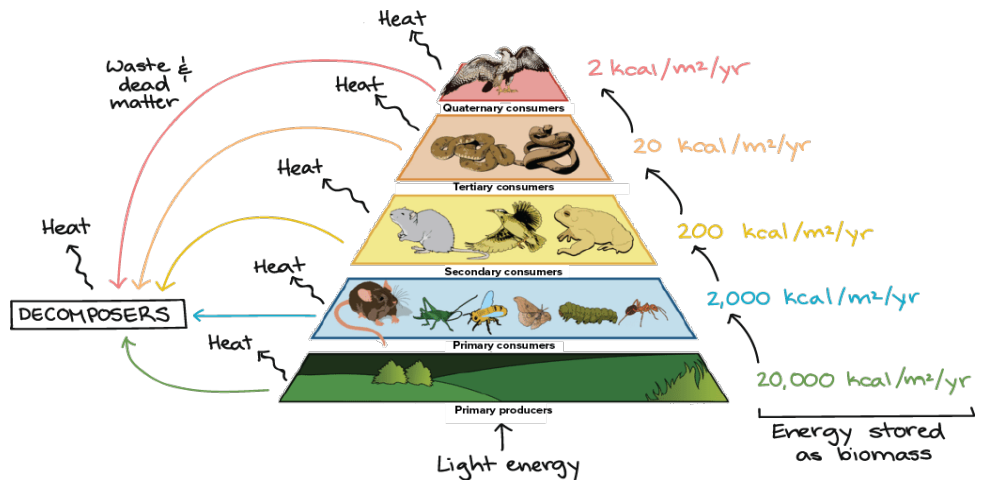
Elon Explorers: Energy Flow Through an Ecosystem

Overview. During this activity, campers will investigate the flow of energy and the efficiency the flow of energy as it travels through ecosystems

Today’s asynchronous science activity: Please go outside to safe place and look around for any organisms you can find. You can include plants, insects, mammals, birds, fungi, or anything alive that you find interesting! Make sure to use sunscreen and insect repellent if it’s sunny or buggy.

Create a list in your field journal of ~15-20 organisms of different kinds that you see, and record how many of each organism you see. For organisms that nearly always exist in abundance (like a field of many blades of grass), you can simply state “field of grass.” If possible, photograph the organisms.

Once you have your list, you’re going to make your own trophic pyramid using our template (open [this link](#) for the template and helpful vocab!) from the organisms you saw, noting also how many total organisms you saw at each level.



Credit: Khan Academy

Use the pyramid shown above (you can ignore the numbers on the right for now) to guide your own pyramid. The pyramid included above is a good place to start for inspiration, but yours does not need to be so complex.

Record how many of each organism you saw and upload any photos to iNaturalist when you are back at home for help with identification.

Feel free to include any photos that you took in your pyramid. You can either directly add photos to your pyramid using your computer, or you can draw the pyramid in your journal and illustrate what you saw from each level.

When you have completed your list and pyramid, upload it to “Day 2: Energy Flow” on the Elon Explorers website. If you drew your pyramid, take a photo of your drawing and then upload it. Make sure to include somewhere on your pyramid the general location where you made your observations, the time of day, and the weather. Note in your field journal any patterns that you think you noticed. Be prepared to discuss it during our afternoon meeting!