

THE ENERGY PYRAMID

"Trophic" level comes from the Greek word for food - trofi.

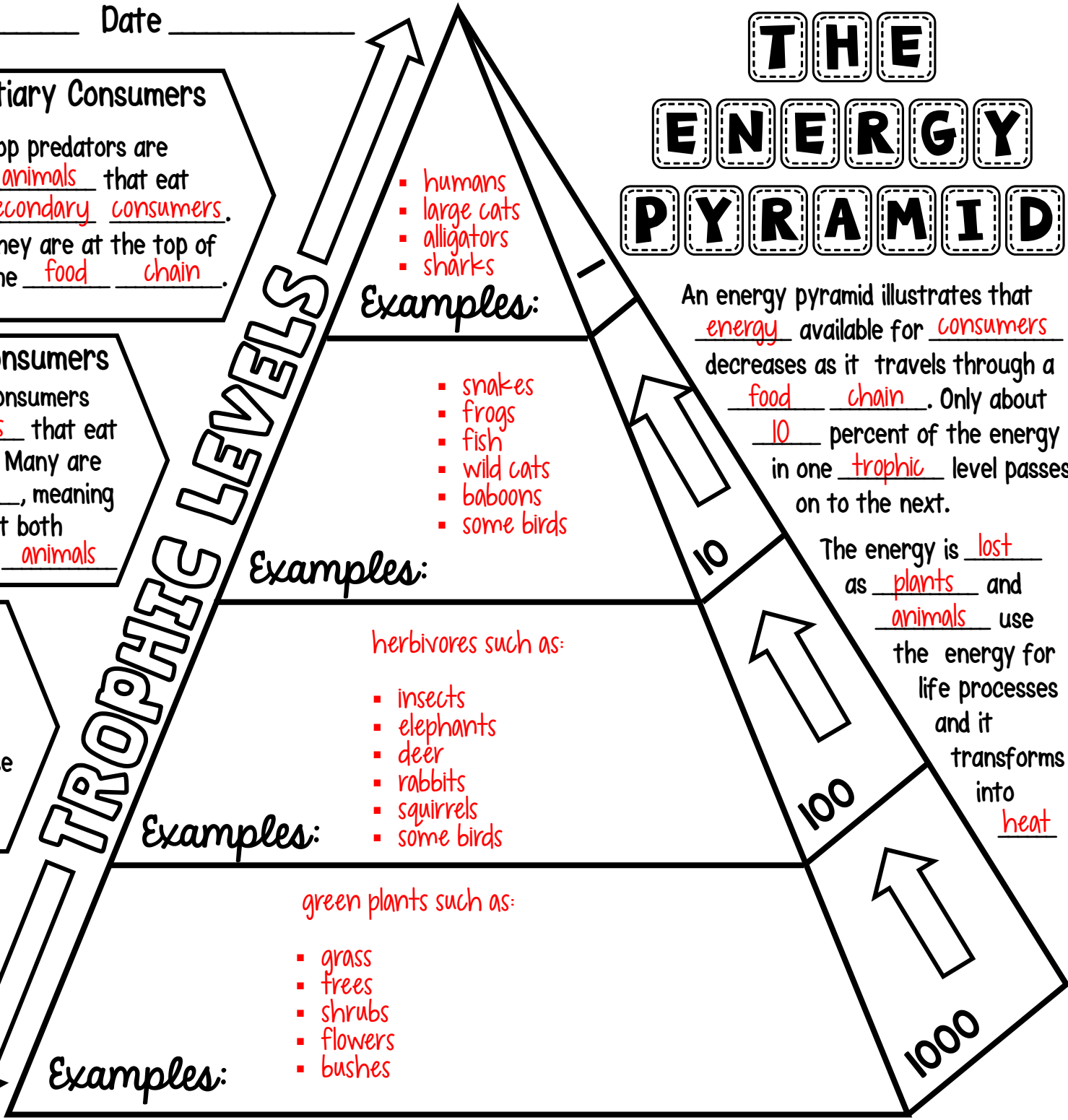


Tertiary Consumers
Top predators are animals that eat secondary consumers. They are at the top of the food chain.

Secondary Consumers
Secondary consumers are animals that eat animals. Many are omnivores, meaning that they eat both plants & animals.

Primary Consumers
Primary consumers are animals that eat plants. They are called "primary" because they are the first level of consumers.

Producers
Producers transform energy from the sun into a large amount of biomass energy through the process of photosynthesis.



TROPHIC LEVELS

Examples:
▪ humans
▪ large cats
▪ alligators
▪ sharks

Examples:
▪ snakes
▪ frogs
▪ fish
▪ wild cats
▪ baboons
▪ some birds

herbivores such as:
Examples:
▪ insects
▪ elephants
▪ deer
▪ rabbits
▪ squirrels
▪ some birds

green plants such as:
Examples:
▪ grass
▪ trees
▪ shrubs
▪ flowers
▪ bushes

An energy pyramid illustrates that energy available for consumers decreases as it travels through a food chain. Only about 10 percent of the energy in one trophic level passes on to the next.

The energy is lost as plants and animals use the energy for life processes and it transforms into heat.