

# WETLAND FOOD WEB

CHALLENGE:

A wetland is a busy place filled with plants and animals. All are playing a role in the wetland food web.

**Producers:** Producers are the beginning of a simple food chain. Producers are organisms, such as plants, that produce their own food using energy from the sun.

**Primary Consumer:** Organisms that eat plant or plant products (also called “herbivore” which means plant eater)

**Secondary Consumers:** Organisms who feed on Primary Consumers (also called “carnivore” which means meat eater, some are called omnivores if they also eat plants)

**Decomposers:** Decomposers break down nutrients in dead stuff and return the nutrients to the soil. Then producers use those nutrients!

Can you figure out what role each organism plays in our Wetland Food Web?

MATERIALS:

-paper and pencil



“Turtles on a Log” – photo by George Ho

- 1) Look at the Wetland Food Web on the back of this sheet.
- 2) Using a chart like the one below, list the producers, primary consumers, secondary consumers and decomposers.

<b>PRODUCER</b> (plant that uses the sun)	<b>PRIMARY CONSUMER</b> (organism that only eats plants)	<b>SECONDARY CONSUMER</b> (organism that eats primary consumers, some also eat plants)	<b>DECOMPOSER</b> (organism that eats dead things)
1)	1)	1)	1)
2)	2)	2)	2)
3)	3)	3)	3)
(more)	(more)	(more)	(more)

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 3) What would happen to the food chain if all of the trout disappeared?
- 4) What would happen to the food chain if a new species like a mosquito was added?
- 5) Try coloring in a background scene to give these organisms a habitat! Add a lake, a shore, and wings for the raccoon because otherwise he is floating in midair!

\*\*To make the web readable, not every connection is made. Can you find a connection you think we are missing?

\*\*Images from Sheri Amsel at [exploringnature.com](http://exploringnature.com)

# COLORADO WETLAND FOOD WEB

Organism being consumed → Organism consuming

