Food webs

Food webs, also called food chains or trophic networks, describe the eating relationships among species within an ecosystem. Organisms are connected to the organisms they eat by arrows, which represent the direction of energy transfer.

Organisms represented in food webs:

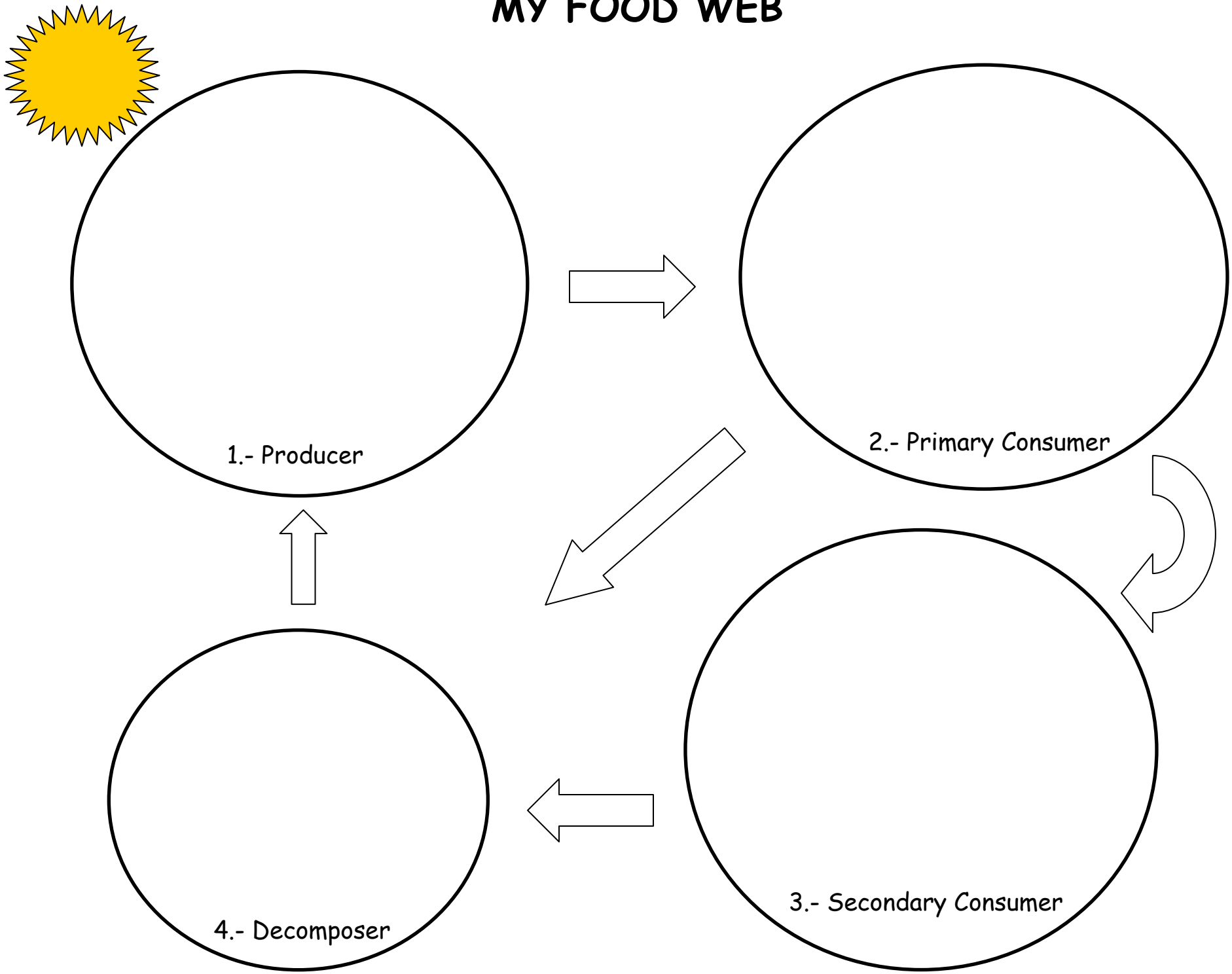
The lowest level on the food web are the Primary producers (or autotrophs), which produce simple organic substances (essentially "food") from an energy source and inorganic materials. These organisms are typically plants, which use energy from the sun to carry out photosynthesis. *Can you give an example of a producer?*

The organisms that get their energy from organic substances (e.g. plants) are called Consumers (or heterotrophs). These include herbivores, which obtain their energy by eating live plants; carnivores, which obtain energy from eating animals; as well as detritivores, scavengers and decomposers, which all consume dead biomass. *Can you give an example of a consumer and a decomposer?*

Energy enters the food chain from the sun. Some energy and biomass are lost at each stage of the food web as waste, movement energy, and heat energy (especially by warm-blooded creatures). Therefore, only a small amount of energy and biomass is incorporated into each consumer's body and transferred to the next feeding level.

In the following diagram, draw organisms forming a food web: a primary producer, a primary consumer, a secondary consumer, and a decomposer.

MY FOOD WEB


1.- Producer
2.- Primary Consumer
3.- Secondary Consumer
4.- Decomposer