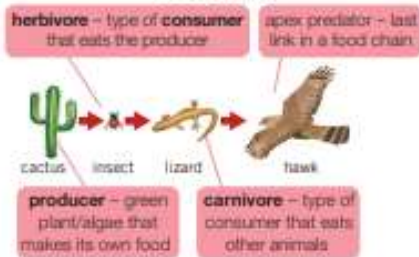


9.1 Interdependence

Food chains and webs

- **Food chains** show the direction in which energy flows when one organism eats another.
- The direction of the arrows represent the direction in which the energy flows
- **Food webs** show how a number of different food chains are connected

Food chain



Food web



- **Producers** are the organisms which start the food chain, they convert energy from the Sun, making their own food, these are often plants
- **Prey** are organisms which are eaten by other organisms
- **Predators** are the organisms which eat the prey

Disruption to food chains

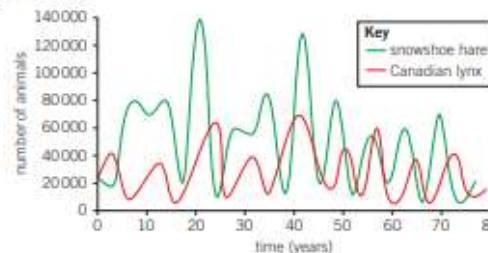
- **Interdependence** is the way in which living organisms rely on each other to survive
- A food chain will be disrupted if one of the organisms die out
- If the producer dies out the rest of the food chain will also die out unless they have a different food source
- If the **consumer** population die out the number of organisms which they eat will increase unless they are eaten by another organism
- **Bioaccumulation** is the process by which chemicals such as pesticides and insecticides build up along a food chain

Ecosystems

- All of the organisms which live in one area are known as a **population**
- An **ecosystem** is all of the organisms which are found in a particular location and the area in which they live in, both the living and non-living features
- A **community** are all of the areas in an ecosystem, the area in which the organisms live in is known as the **habitat**
- A **niche** is the specific role in which an organism has within an ecosystem, for example a panda's diet consists of 99% bamboo

Competition

- **Competition** is the process in which organisms compete with one another for resources
- Animals compete for food, water, space and mates
- Plants compete for light, water, space and minerals
- The best competitors are those who have adapted in order to best gain these resources
- As the number of a predator in a population increases the number of the prey will decrease as more are being eaten
- As the number of the predator decreases the number of the prey will increase as less are being eaten
- The relationship between the predator and the prey is known as a **predator-prey relationship**



Key terms – make sure you can write definitions for these

Bioaccumulation
 Community
 Competition
 Consumer
 Ecosystem
 Food chain
 Food web
 Habitat
 Interdependence
 Niche
 Predator
 Prey
 Producer
 Population