

# Ecological Consumers Encyclopedia Article

## Ecological Consumers

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# Ecological Consumers

Organisms that feed either directly or indirectly on producers, plants that convert **solar energy** into complex organic molecules. Primary consumers are animals that eat plants directly. They are also called herbivores. Secondary consumers are animals that eat other animals. They are also called carnivores. Consumers that eat both plants and animals are omnivores. **Parasites** are a type of consumer that lives in or on the plant or animal on which it feeds. Detrivores (**detritus** feeders and **decomposers**) constitute a specialized class of consumers that feed on dead plants and animals.

## See Also

Biotic Community