**Symbiosis & Energy Transfer Vocabulary**

1. **Producer:** also called autotroph, uses energy to make its own food through photosynthesis
2. **Decomposer:** an organism that gets energy by breaking down the remains of dead organisms or animal wastes and consuming or absorbing the nutrients
3. **Consumer:** an organism that eats other organisms or organic matter
4. **Herbivore:** an organism that eats only plants
5. **Carnivore:** an organism that eats animals
6. **Omnivore:** an organism that eats both plants and animals
7. **Food Chain:** the pathway of energy transfer through various stages as a result of the feeding patterns of a series of organisms
8. **Food Web:** a diagram that shows the feeding relationships between organisms in an ecosystem
9. **Energy Pyramid:** diagram that shows an ecosystem’s loss of energy, which results as energy passes through the ecosystem’s food chain, each row represents a tropic level
10. **Carrying Capacity:** the maximum number of individuals of one species that the environment can support
11. **Limiting Factor:** an environmental factor that prevents an organism or population from reaching its full potential of size or activity
12. **Competition:** ecological relationship in which two or more organisms depend on the same limited resource
13. **Cooperation:** an interaction between two or more living things in which they are said to work together
14. **Predator:** an organism that kills and eats all or part of another organism
15. **Prey:** an organism that is killed and eaten by another organism
16. **Symbiosis:** a relationship in which two different organisms live in close association with each other
17. **Mutualism:** a relationship between two species in which both species benefit
18. **Commensalism:** a relationship between two organisms in which one organism benefits and the other is unaffected
19. **Parasitism:** a relationship between two species in which one species, the parasite, benefits from the other species, the host, which is harmed