

Types of Consumers

Note-taking Guide - Answer Key

lions, breaking, consumers, nutrients, herbivores, vultures, vegetarians, organic, omnivores, sunlight, both, plants, carnivores, soil, we, animals, dead, scavengers, bear, decomposers, worms, photosynthesis

Animals eat or consume plants or other animals for food. This is why they are called consumers.

Consumers such as zebras are called herbivores since they only eat plants.

Lions are consumers too, but are called carnivores since they eat other animals like the zebra. Some carnivores only eat dead animals.

Carnivores such as vultures only eat dead animals and are called scavengers.

A bear is a consumer that eats both plants and animals. Such animals are called omnivores.

We too are omnivores! Humans can eat both animals and plants.

Some people prefer to eat only food that comes from plants. However, we don't call these people herbivores—we call them vegetarians.

Decomposers are yet another type of consumers. Fungi, worms, and bacteria in the soil are some examples of decomposers. They get their food by breaking down or decomposing dead organic matter.

Decomposers release nutrients from dead organic matter into the soil. Plants or producers use these nutrients along with sunlight to make their food through photosynthesis.