

Chapter 1 Summary

In this chapter you examined the characteristics of an ecosystem from the point of view of the flow of matter and energy. The investigation of these topics revealed that there are complex interrelationships between species and their environments. Energy pyramids, food webs, and biogeochemical cycles illustrate these complex interactions. The loss of biodiversity indicates how human activities can threaten the long-term health of the world's ecosystems.

The theme of changes in living systems continues in Chapter 2. These changes within the ecosystem will be examined over much longer time frames—from hundreds to thousands to millions of years. The concept of stewardship is seen throughout this unit.



Summarize Your Learning

This chapter demonstrated the interconnections between various forms of life and the physical environment. It will be much easier for you to recall and apply the information you have learned if you organize it into patterns.

Since the patterns have to be meaningful to you, there are some options about how you can create this summary. Each of the following options is described in “Summarize Your Learning Activities” on pages 552 and 553. Choose one of these options to create a summary of the key concepts and important terms in Chapter 1.

Option 1: Draw a concept map or a web diagram.	Option 2: Create a point-form summary.	Option 3: Write a story using key terms and concepts.	Option 4: Create a colourful poster.	Option 5: Build a model.	Option 6: Write a script for a skit (a mock news report).
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Legend: t = top, m = middle, b = bottom, l = left, r = right

463 (all) Digipict 2004