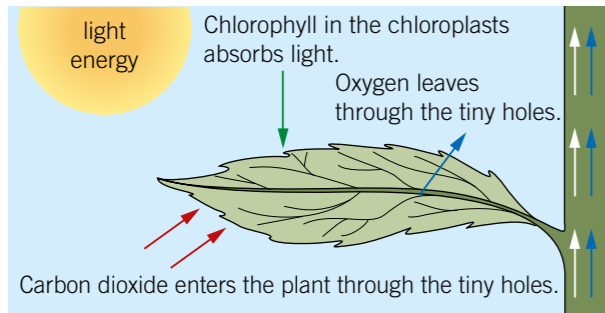


B2: Ecosystem processes

Knowledge organiser

Photosynthesis

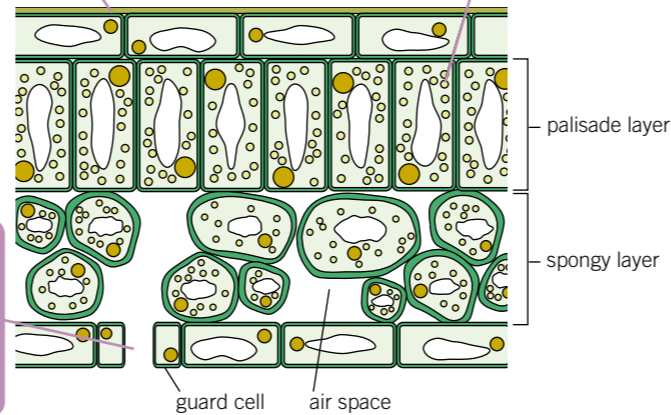
Photosynthesis is a chemical reaction that takes place in the **chloroplasts** to produce **glucose**.



waxy layer – to reduce water loss by evaporation

chloroplasts – mainly located on the upper side of the leaf where the most sunlight reaches

stomata – on the lower surface to reduce water loss by evaporation



Leaves are specially adapted for photosynthesis:

- have lots of green **chlorophyll** – absorb sunlight for photosynthesis
- are thin – allow gases to diffuse in and out of the leaf
- have a large surface area – absorb as much light as possible
- have veins – xylem and phloem transport water and glucose

The minerals plants need for growth are:

- 1 **nitrate**s for growth
- 2 **phosphate**s for healthy roots
- 3 potassium for healthy leaves and flowers
- 4 magnesium for making chlorophyll

If a plant does not have enough of a mineral, it may suffer from a mineral **deficiency**. Farmers can use **fertilisers** to add missing minerals to the soil.

Food chains and webs

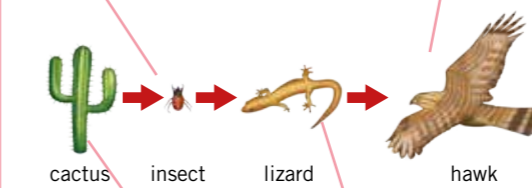
Food chains show the transfer of energy between organisms – the arrows represent the direction of energy transfer.

Food webs show how lots of food chains are connected in an ecosystem.

Food chain

herbivore – type of **consumer** that eats the producer

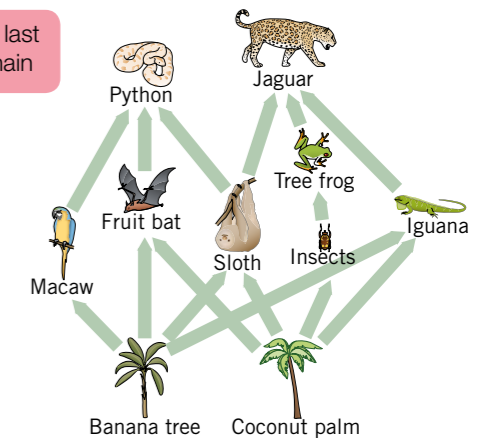
apex predator – last link in a food chain



producer – green plant/algae that makes its own food

carnivore – type of consumer that eats other animals

Food web



Prey: an organism eaten by another organism.

Predator: an organism that eats another organism.

Bioaccumulation is the build up of chemicals, like insecticides, passed along a food chain.

Respiration

with oxygen

Aerobic respiration



- Respiration occurs in the **mitochondria** of cells to produce energy.
- Glucose is absorbed from the small intestine into the blood **plasma**. It is transported to the cells where it diffuses in.
- Oxygen is breathed in and diffuses into the bloodstream. Oxygen is then carried by haemoglobin to the cells where it diffuses in.
- Carbon dioxide diffuses out of the cells into the blood plasma. It is transported to the lungs where it diffuses into the air sacs and is exhaled.

without oxygen

Anaerobic respiration (in animals)



- This occurs when there is not enough oxygen for aerobic respiration, such as during strenuous exercise.
- It transfers less energy than aerobic respiration.
- The lactic acid produced can cause muscle cramps. This causes increased inhalation to break down lactic acid – the oxygen needed is called the **oxygen debt**.

Fermentation (in microorganisms)



- Yeast respire anaerobically – this fermentation is important in food production (e.g., bread, beer, and wine).

Populations and ecosystems

The number of organisms that live in the same area is called a **population**. Populations of organisms are constantly changing – this affects other populations in a food web.

Interdependence is when living organisms depend on each other to survive, grow, and reproduce.

Ecosystem: all the organisms found in a particular location, and the area they live in.

Community: the organisms in an ecosystem. **Habitat**: the area a community lives in.

Niche: the particular place or role that an organism has within an ecosystem. This reduces competition for resources.

Chemosynthesis

Chemosynthesis is when bacteria use a variety of chemical reactions to make their own glucose. Chemosynthesis:

- uses chemicals as the source of energy
 - often uses carbon dioxide as a reactant
- For example, sulfur bacteria at the bottom of deep sea vents and nitrogen bacteria in the soil use chemosynthesis to produce glucose.



Key terms

Make sure you can write definitions for these key terms.

aerobic anaerobic bioaccumulation carnivore chemosynthesis chlorophyll community consumer deficiency ecosystem fermentation fertiliser food chain food web producer habitat herbivore interdependence mitochondria niche nitrate oxygen debt plasma phosphate photosynthesis population predator prey stomata