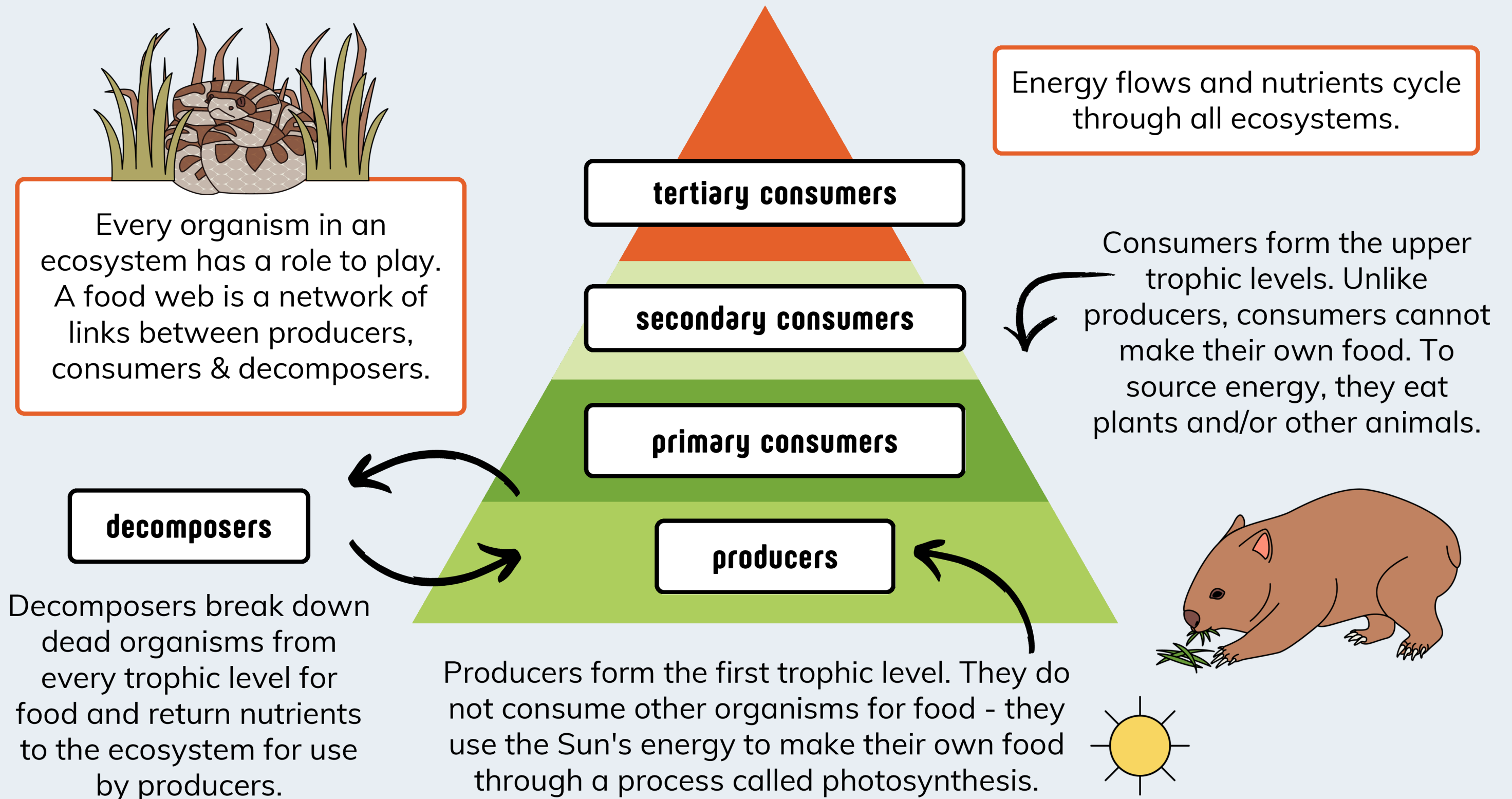
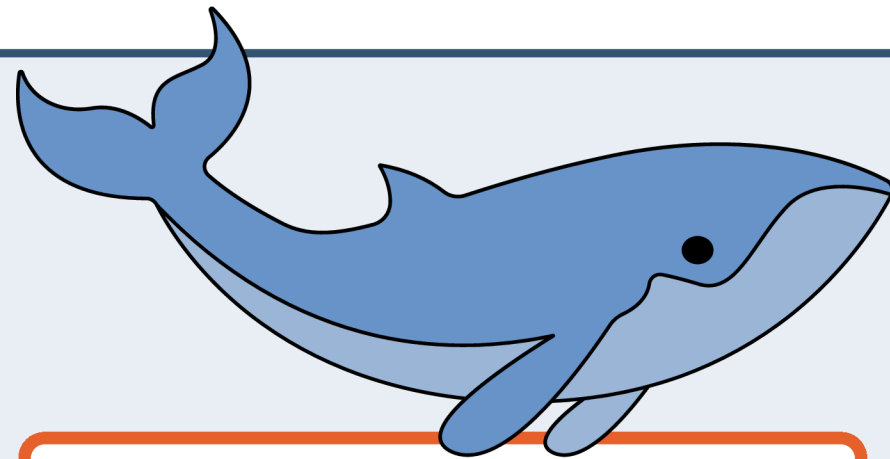


# energy flow in ecosystems



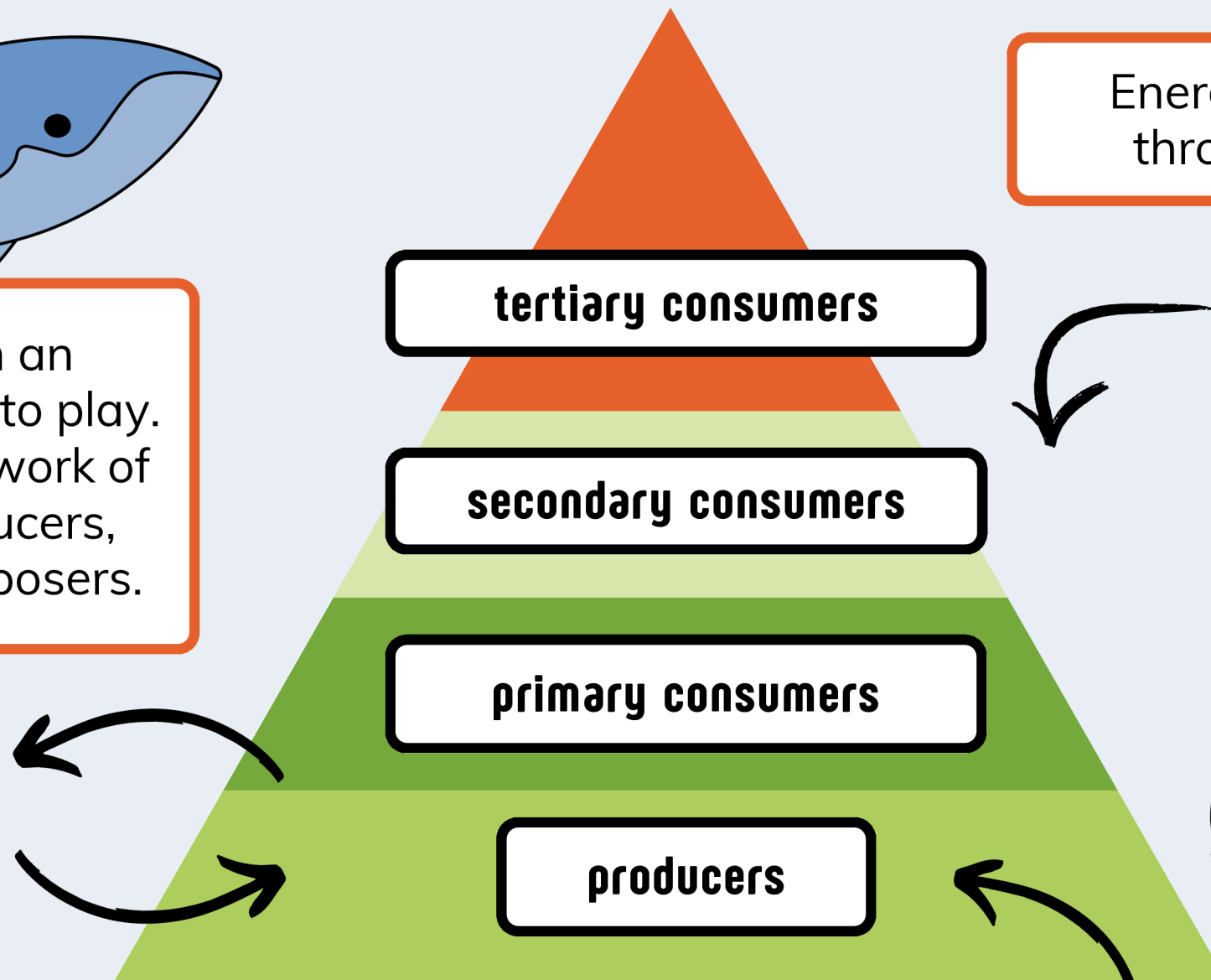
# ecosystem roles



Every organism in an ecosystem has a role to play. A food chain is a network of links between producers, consumers & decomposers.

## decomposers

Decomposers form the last trophic level. They consume non-living organisms for food and return nutrients to the ecosystem for use by producers.



**tertiary consumers**

**secondary consumers**

**primary consumers**

**producers**

Energy and nutrients flow through all ecosystems.

Consumers form the upper trophic levels. Unlike producers, consumers cannot make their own food. To source energy, they eat plants and/or other animals.

Producers form the first trophic level. They do not consume other organisms for food. They produce energy through the process of photosynthesis using sunlight.

