Section 1.3 Note:

Organisms (or gan is ummm) in Ecosystems

Niche (nee sshhhh) – what an organism does in its environment. ‘It’ could be food, ‘it’ could produce food, ‘it’ could get rid of dead things… You need to know what ‘it’ eats, where ‘it’ lives, and how ‘it’ interacts with other living things around ‘it’.

*Producers* (plants) produce their own food using the energy from the sun and nutrients from the soil and air.

*Consumers* consume other things to get their energy. There are 5 types of consumers!

*Herbivores* (herb ee vores) eat plants (herb = plant) and only plants

*Carnivores* (car nee vores) eat only other animals

*Omnivores* (om nee vores) eat both plants and animals

*Scavengers* eat dead and/or decaying animals and/or plants. Scavengers EAT

*Decomposers* are smaller organisms that break down dead organic matter by putting chemicals on them that dissolve the tissues. Decomposers DISSOLVE outside of their bodies

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Relationships

Organisms sometimes depend on each other for safety, a place to live, or for food.

*Symbiosis* (sym bi o sis) – When two different species closely depend on each other over time.

Parasitism – When one of the ‘partners’ benefits (parasite) at the expense of the other species (host)

*Mutualism* (mut ual ism) – When two species both benefit from their relationship (everyone wins)

*Commensalism* (com men sal ism) – when one of the species benefits, and the other is NOT hurt in any way.