Section 1.3 Notes (adapted):

**Organisms in Ecosystems**

**Niche** – 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 i vores) eat plants (herb = plant) and only plants

**Carnivores** (car ne 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