

Aim: How do organisms acquire nutrition?

1. **producers (autotrophs)**
make their own food

a. **photosynthesis**



plants and some algae

b. **chemosynthesis**

bacteria

- use sulfur (ex. H_2S gas) and carbon to synthesize organic compounds such as sugar for nutrition
- base of food web in deep sea environments (ex. near hydrothermal vents)

2. **consumers (heterotrophs)** - acquire energy by feeding on other things

a. **herbivores** – eat plants (cows, deer, rabbits, elephants, horses)

b. **carnivores** – eat meat/animals (lions, tigers, sharks)

c. **omnivores** – eat plants and meat (humans, foxes, bears, rats, birds, raccoons)

d. **decomposers** – break down organic material

saprophytes – secrete enzymes and absorb nutrition (bacteria and fungi)

detritivores / detritus feeders – help begin the decomposition process by physically breaking down larger particles (earthworms, crabs, ants, termites)