INSTRUCTIONS: Explore a forest or stand of trees in your school, neighborhood, or nearby park. Log your observations below and (circle) the items that you discover on your journey.

What types of trees do you see?   deciduous   coniferous   evergreen

Can you name any of the tree species? _(e.g. shortleaf pine tree or tulip polar etc.)_

What tree life cycle stages do you see?   seeds (or cones)   saplings   mature trees

What layers are visible in the forest?   emergent   canopy   understory   forest floor

What (if any) natural water sources do you see? _(e.g. creek, river , pond, etc.)_

How much sunlight reaches the forest floor?   plenty light   medium light   mostly shade

Describe any types of forestry management that you see:

Land management: _(e.g., diameter measurements using tree caliper or diameter measuring tape)_

Wildlife management: _(e.g. artificial cavity insert)_

Thinning: _(e.g. harvested trees or equipment)_

Tree planting: _(e.g. seedlings)_

Prescribed fire: _(e.g., burned vegetation or tree)_

What is the forest providing as a byproduct of photosynthesis? oxygen

What in the forest is playing a role in the carbon cycle and how?

Trees: absorb CO2, release CO2

Sun: light energy for photosynthesis

Humans: release CO2, absorb O2

Animals: release CO2, absorb O2, carbon compounds

Motor Vehicles: CO2 emmissions

Decomposers: breaking down carbon compounds in soil

List what you see (or hear) next to the correct role in the food web:
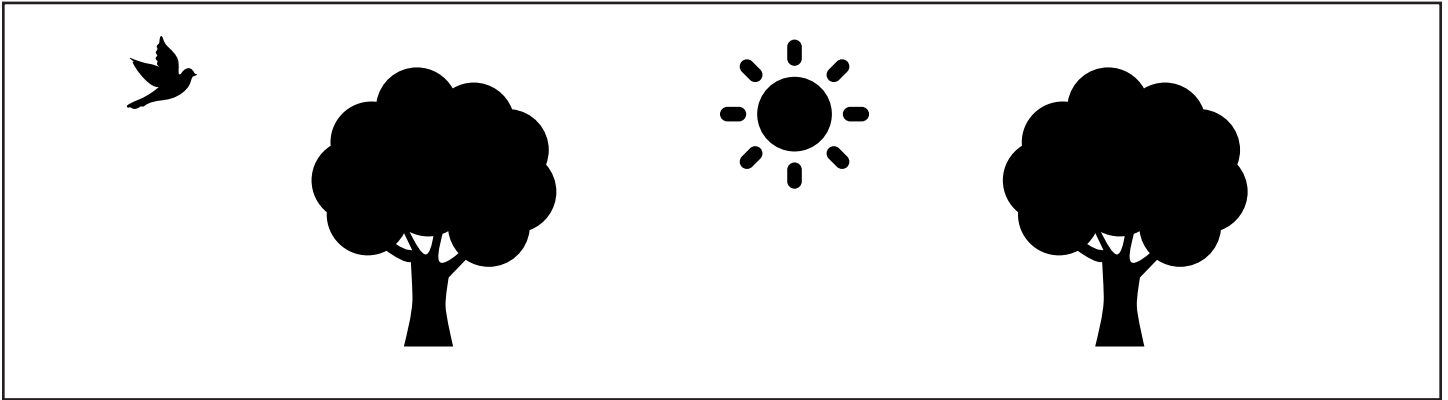
Producer: _(e.g. trees or green plants)_

Primary consumer: e.g. deer or rabbit

Secondary consumer: _(e.g., bobcat, fox, or hawk)_

Decomposer: e.g. worm or fungi

Pollinator: _(e.g., bee, butterfly or hummingbird)_

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DIRECTIONS: Draw a picture of the forest you are exploring and include all of the elements that make it a healthy forest ecosystem--like the trees, water, wildlife, or more!

Draw a flower, plant, or tree from the forest that you are exploring.

Draw an animal you see or hear in the forest you are exploring.

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