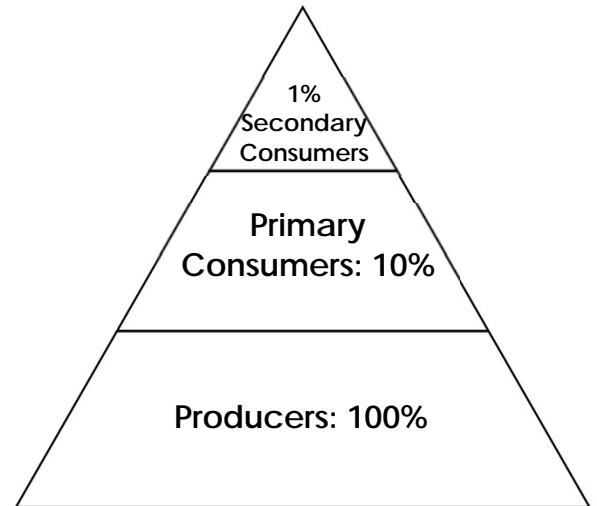


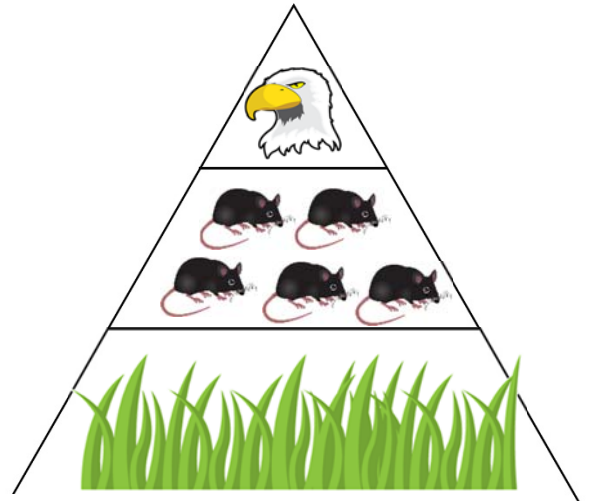
# Ecological Pyramid

An ecological pyramid is a graphical representation of the relationship between the amounts of energy or matter at the different trophic levels in an ecosystem. There are three types of ecological pyramids.

A **Pyramid of Energy** shows the amount of energy available at each trophic level. The 10% law says only 10% of energy from organic matter is passed on when energy is transferred from one trophic level to another. The Pyramid of energy is always upright because during the flow of energy from one trophic level to the next, in each step some energy is always lost as heat.



A **Pyramid of Numbers** shows the relative numbers of organisms at each trophic level. Unlike a Pyramid of Energy, a Pyramid of Numbers is not always right side up. For example, a single organism such as a tree can support many individual lifeforms.



A **Pyramid of Biomass** shows the relative amount of biomass at each trophic level. Biomass is the amount of living tissue, and thus the amount of potential food available at each level.

