

CLASSIFYING ORGANISMS

Organisms are classified according to how they get food for energy.

Below is a description of seven different organisms and how they get food for energy.

- **CARNIVORE** is an organism that feeds on other animals.
- **HERBIVORE** is an organism that feeds on plant.
- **OMNIVORE** is an organism that feeds on both plants and animals.
- **PRODUCER** produces its own food.
- **SAPROPHYTE** eats the dead or decaying matter of other organisms.
- **PARASITE** is an organism that gets its nourishment by attaching itself to another organism, which is called a host.
- **DECOMPOSER** is an organism that usually lives in soil. It gets its nutrients by breaking down the wastes and remains of other organisms.

1. For breakfast, Bill eats oatmeal with milk. He has a hamburger with lettuce and tomato for lunch. For supper he has chicken, spinach, rice, and apple pie. Bill is _____.

- ① a carnivore
- ② an herbivore
- ③ an omnivore
- ④ a producer
- ⑤ a saprophyte

2. Mushrooms get their nutrients from animal droppings, and decaying material, such as rotting leaves and sticks.

A mushroom is _____.

- ① a carnivore
- ② an herbivore
- ③ an omnivore
- ④ a producer
- ⑤ a saprophyte

3. During photosynthesis, a cottonwood tree converts carbon dioxide and water into carbohydrates. A tree uses carbohydrates as food for growth.

A cottonwood tree is _____.

- ① a carnivore
- ② an herbivore
- ③ an omnivore
- ④ a producer
- ⑤ a saprophyte

4. A horse eats hay and grain. Sometimes Bonita treats her horse, Lady, to apples, carrots, or sugar cubes.

A horse is _____.

- ① a carnivore
- ② an herbivore
- ③ an omnivore
- ④ a producer
- ⑤ a saprophyte

5. A bobcat eats deer, rabbits, antelope, and other plant eaters.

A bobcat is _____.

- ① a carnivore
- ② an herbivore
- ③ an omnivore
- ④ a producer
- ⑤ a saprophyte

6. Spiders build sticky webs to trap insects. An insect dies as it struggles to free itself from the web. The spider then eats the insect.

A spider is _____.

- ① a carnivore
- ② an herbivore
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7. Sea cows eat mangrove leaves, turtle grass, and algae.

A sea cow is _____.

- ① an herbivore
- ② a carnivore
- ③ an omnivore
- ④ a parasite
- ⑤ a decomposer

8. For lunch, Tomás ate a bacon, lettuce, and tomato sandwich and French fries.

Tomás is _____.

- ① an herbivore
- ② a carnivore
- ③ an omnivore
- ④ a parasite
- ⑤ a decomposer

9. A flea attaches itself to a cat's skin and feeds on the cat's blood.

A flea is _____.

- ① an herbivore
- ② a carnivore
- ③ an omnivore
- ④ a parasite
- ⑤ a decomposer

10. The black bear of Rocky Mountain National Park feeds on various food items. The black bear eats trout, berries, and other small animals.

The black bear is _____.

- ① an herbivore
- ② a carnivore
- ③ an omnivore
- ④ a parasite
- ⑤ a decomposer

11. The Bald Eagle of Lake Meredith lives exclusively on fish and other small animals.

The Bald Eagle is _____.

- ① an herbivore
- ② a carnivore
- ③ an omnivore
- ④ a parasite
- ⑤ a decomposer

12. Wild boars eat bugs, lizards, frogs, and plants.

A wild boar is _____.

- ① an herbivore
- ② a carnivore
- ③ an omnivore
- ④ a parasite

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⑤ a decomposer