

## Chapter 55: Ecosystems and Restoration Ecology AP Biology Reading Guide

### Overview

1. What is an ecosystem?
2. Where does energy enter most ecosystems? How is it converted to chemical energy and then passed through the ecosystem? How is it lost? Remember this: Energy cannot be recycled.
3. Besides the energy flow that you described in questions 2, chemicals such as carbon and nitrogen cycle through ecosystems. So energy \_\_\_\_\_ through an ecosystem and matter \_\_\_\_\_.

### 55.1 Physical laws govern energy flow and chemical cycling in ecosystems.

4. Both energy and matter can be neither \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
5. We can measure the efficiency of energy conversion in an ecosystem, as well as whether a given nutrient is being gained or lost from an ecosystem. Let us take a second look at trophic levels. What trophic level supports all others?
6. List three groups of organisms that are photosynthetic autotrophs.
7. What are the primary producers of the deep-sea vents?
8. This concept reviews trophic relationships. Know all terms in your textbook that are bolded. What are trophic levels? What is always at the first trophic level?
9. What are detritivores? What is their importance in chemical cycling? Give some examples of detritivores.
10. State the trophic level of each of the following: (A) Cow, (B) grass, (C) man, and (D) mushroom.

### 55.2 Energy and other limiting factors control primary production in ecosystems.

11. What is primary production? Distinguish between gross primary production and net primary production.
12. Write an equation here that shows the relationship between gross and net primary production.
13. You may recall from Ch. 54 that biomass is the total mass of all individuals in a trophic level. Another way of defining net primary production is as the amount of new biomass/unit of time, the key measurement to ecologists?
14. Which ecosystem would tend to have a greater biomass/unit area, a prairie or a tropical rain forest? Explain.
15. Describe a technique for measuring net primary production in an aquatic environment.
16. What are some factors that limit primary productivity in aquatic ecosystems?
17. What is a limiting nutrient? What is the limiting nutrient off the shore of Long Island, New York? What is the limiting nutrient in the Sargasso Sea?
18. Phytoplankton growth can be increased by additional nitrates and phosphates. What are common sources of each of these?
19. What is eutrophication? What are factors that contribute to eutrophication?

### 55.3 Energy transfer between trophic levels is typically only 10% efficient

20. What is trophic efficiency?
21. Generally, what percentage of energy available at one trophic level is available at the next?
22. Consider a food chain with 1,000 joules (an energy unit) available at the producer level. If this food chain is grass → grasshopper → lizard → crow, how much energy is found at the level of the crow? Show your work.
23. Notice that most biomass pyramids have the greatest biomass on the bottom of the pyramid. Label the trophic levels on both of the following figures. Explain why the second pyramid of biomass is inverted.



# Chapter 55 Ecosystems Ap Biology Reading Guide Answers

**Ken Green, William S. Osborne**



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*Backpacker*, 2007-09 Backpacker brings the outdoors straight to the reader's doorstep inspiring and enabling them to go more places and enjoy nature more often The authority on active adventure Backpacker is the world's first GPS enabled magazine and the only magazine whose editors personally test the hiking trails camping gear and survival tips they publish Backpacker's Editors Choice Awards an industry honor recognizing design feature and product innovation has become the gold standard against which all other outdoor industry awards are measured Choice, 1993 *Technical Information Appropriate for Developing Countries*, 1986 **Forthcoming Books** Rose Arny, 1997-04 **Wildlife of the Australian Snow-country** Ken Green, William S. Osborne, 1994 This lavishly illustrated guide designed for both amateur naturalists and specialists describes the mammals birds reptiles frogs fish insects and other invertebrates found in those regions of Australia with regular extended winter snow cover Discusses the distribution breeding food and behaviour of these animals and also gives a general description of the geology climate and ecological features of the snow country environment and the evolution of the snow country fauna Includes references a glossary and an index

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