

Energy transfer in ecosystems **Triple only**

Why do food chains have a limited length?

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Give ways energy is lost between trophic levels.

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What is a pyramid of biomass?

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Why are there fewer organisms at higher trophic levels?

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How do you calculate the efficiency of energy transfer?

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How do you calculate a percentage of biomass transferred?

Heat from respiration, movement, waste (faeces, urine), and parts of the organism not eaten.

Energy is lost at each trophic level, so too little energy is left to support more levels.

Less energy and biomass is available at each level, because energy is transferred to less useful forms.

A diagram showing the biomass at each trophic level, with producers at the bottom. It gets narrower going up.

$$\text{Biomass gained} \div \text{biomass available at the previous level} \times 100.$$

$$\text{Energy transferred to next level} \div \text{energy available at previous level} \times 100.$$