

NICHES ON THE PRAIRIE (ANSWER KEY)

Write “producer,” “consumer,” or “decomposer” next to each living thing from the prairie.

purple coneflower: producer

fox: consumer

great-horned owl: consumer

turtle: consumer

bacteria: decomposer

compass plant: producer

swamp milkweed: producer

nighthawk: consumer

little bluestem: producer

partridge pea: producer

frog: consumer

butterfly: consumer

squirrel: consumer

fungi: decomposer

mushroom: decomposer

Fill in the blanks in the following sentences.

In general, most plants with leaves and stems are producers.

Most animals are consumers.

Bacteria and mushrooms (and other fungi) are decomposers.

Discussion question: Why are producers, consumers, and decomposers all essential in the prairie ecosystem? Answers will vary.

