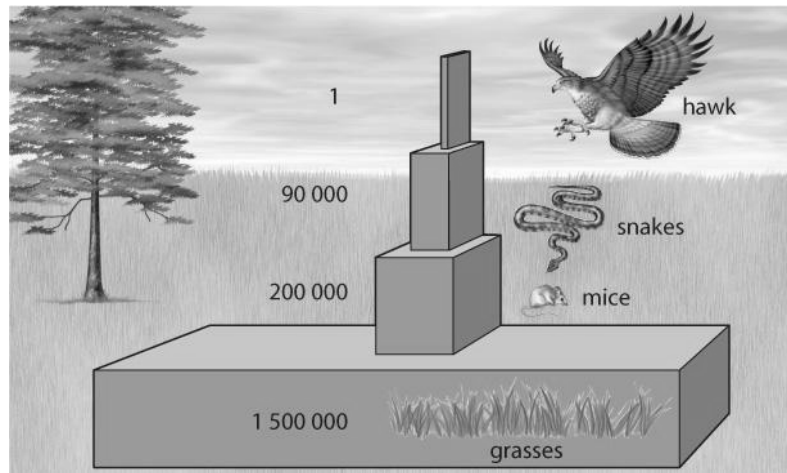
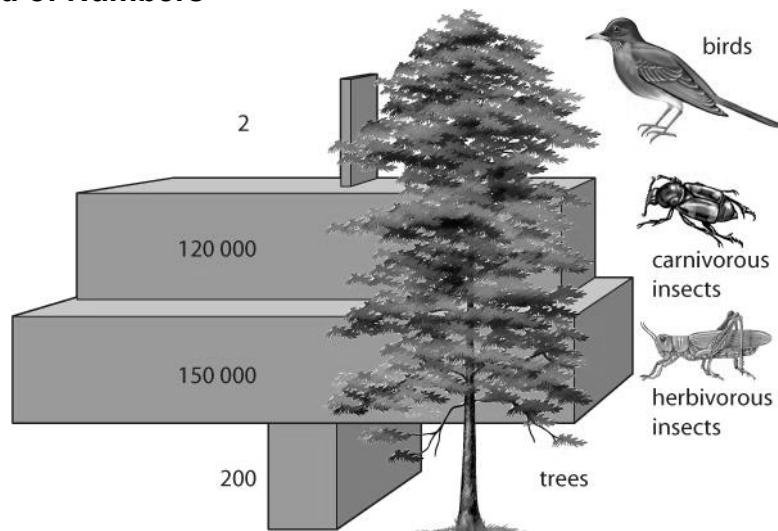


CHAPTER 1**OVERHEAD****Pyramid of Numbers****BLM 1.2.7****Pyramid of Numbers**

A pyramid of numbers for an ecosystem represents the relative number of organisms at each link in a food chain and, thus, at each trophic level.

- In many ecosystems, organisms at higher trophic levels are fewer in number than organisms at lower trophic levels.
- This illustrates a decrease in available energy at each successive trophic level.

Inverted Pyramid of Numbers

In an inverted pyramid of numbers, organisms at a lower trophic level are fewer in number than organisms at a higher trophic level.

- In some ecosystems, a smaller number of large organisms at a lower trophic level support a larger number of small organisms at higher trophic levels.
- Due to size of the organisms, there is more biomass at the lower trophic level than at the higher ones.