



Valley Quail

What do I do?

Quails like to live in grassy, bushy areas in open Oak Woodlands. They often live with a partner, and stay in one area for their entire lives. During mating season, quails live with other quail families.

What do I eat?

Seeds, leaves, acorns, insects and bulbs

Who eats me?

humans, coyotes, snakes, foxes - all eat quail meat for protein
mushrooms decompose quail waste

Trophic level:

Primary Producer

Primary Consumer

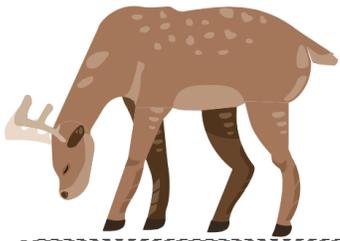
Secondary Consumer

Apex Consumer

Decomposer

Why am I important?

- Quail designs are used in baskets
- Important ingredient in traditional food recipes
- Good source of protein
- **Primary consumers** - they eat primary producers



Mule Deer

What do I do?

Deer migrate towards oak trees; acorns are their favorite food. Deer are prey for many animals, and are important for maintaining coyote populations. Deer are a major source of protein.

What do I eat?

Acorns, leaves and twigs, grasses, mushrooms, shrubs

Who eats me?

coyotes, humans, bears, some birds and small mammals, mushrooms

Trophic level:

Primary Producer

Primary Consumer

Secondary Consumer

Apex Consumer

Decomposer

Why am I important?

- Deer hoof **basket designs** are used for decoration
- Deer meat is a common traditional food
- It can be cooked or dried
- Deer meat is high in calories
- **Primary consumer** - eats **primary producers**.



Mushrooms

What do I do?

Mushrooms break down dead matter. By decomposing dead animals and plants, mushrooms help bring nutrients back to the soil so that new plants can grow.

What do I eat?

dead plant and animal matter

Who eats me?

humans, deer, squirrels, insects

Trophic level:

Primary Producer

Primary Consumer

Secondary Consumer

Apex Consumer

Decomposer

Why am I important?

- Used in many recipes
- Many varieties - some are nutritious, others are poisonous
- **Decomposers** - they break down dead matter and return nutrients to the soil.



Black Oak

What do I do?

The oak provides shelter for many insects, animals, birds and plants. Oak leaves and acorns feed many species. Oak trees protect the forest floor with shade. Oaks keep air clean by absorbing carbon dioxide.

What do I eat?

Oak needs smoke to ward off bacteria and disease. Oaks need water and nutritious soil

Who eats me?

deers, birds, quail, humans, mushrooms, bears and many more

Trophic level:

Primary Producer

Primary Consumer

Secondary Consumer

Apex Consumer

Decomposer

Why am I important?

- Produce acorns - a **staple food** for the Pomo people
- One of the easier acorns to process - very oily when cooked
- Gathered in the fall in **burden baskets**
- Stored for food for an entire year
- **Primary producer** - convert the sun's light into energy through photosynthesis



Manzanita

What do I do?

Animals that eat manzanita berries spread manzanita seeds, allowing more to grow. When manzanitas die they shed their leaves, which can be a fire hazard. Controlled burns are used to support the health of manzanitas.

What do I eat?

Manzanitas like mediterranean climates. They do not like excess water.

Who eats me?

my seeds: birds and insects
my berries: humans, coyotes, mushrooms

Trophic level:

Primary Producer

Primary Consumer

Secondary Consumer

Apex Consumer

Decomposer

Why am I important?

- Must process before eating
- Sharp seed in the center is dangerous to digest
- Can be turned into cider high in vitamins C and D
- **Primary producer** - they turn sunlight into energy through photosynthesis



Ground Squirrel

What do I do?

Squirrels often burrow in the hollows of oak trees. They sometimes make nests out of grasses and twigs. Squirrels collect and bury seeds in the ground as a way of storing food. Often, plants grow from the seeds, creating new plant life.

What do I eat?

nuts, acorns, seeds, mushrooms

Who eats me?

coyotes, humans, wildcats, hawks, owls, mushrooms

Trophic level:

Primary Producer

Primary Consumer

Secondary Consumer

Apex Consumer

Decomposer

Why am I important?

- Compete with human for acorns
- Stash their acorns at the base of oak trees
- Pomo and squirrels used to steal each others' acorns
- **Primary consumers** - they consume **primary producers**



Grasshopper

What do I do?

Grasshoppers cycle nutrients throughout ecosystems. When the weather is wet, grasshopper populations can grow out of control, causing them to destroy grass and plant populations with their eating.

What do I eat?

grasses, shrubs, weeds, oak tree bark, mushrooms

Who eats me?

humans, insects, small birds, mushrooms, foxes

Trophic level:

Primary Producer

Primary Consumer

Secondary Consumer

Apex Consumer

Decomposer

Why am I important?

- Grasshopper design popular in Pomo basket weaving
- Roasted and ground into a flour
- Grasshopper flour adds protein to a meal
- **Primary consumers** - they consume only plants, or primary producers.



Brome Grass

What do I do?

Brome grass keeps soil from eroding and is drought resistant. If not managed, brome grass can spread rapidly, taking over other grasses. Fire is used to grow some brome grass in order to make space for other grasses to grow.

What do I eat?

Brome grass can grow in many different kinds of soil, including dry soil. It needs little water

Who eats me?

deer, quail, mice.
Humans can use brome seeds to make meal.

Trophic level:

Primary Producer

Primary Consumer

Secondary Consumer

Apex Consumer

Decomposer

Why am I important?

- Sometimes used to make a traditional Pomo meal called yu-hu. Burned to help other grasses grow that can be eaten
- Seeds are harvested using **winnowing baskets** that separate seeds from stalks
- **Primary producer** - uses photosynthesis to convert sunlight into energy



Red Clover

What do I do?

Clover is sometimes attacked by mushrooms, harming their ability to grow. Clover is often harvested by Native people to promote growth and grass biodiversity.

What do I eat?

likes sandy, well drained soil

Who eats me?

humans, quail, grasshoppers, deer, mushrooms

Trophic level:

Primary Producer

Primary Consumer

Secondary Consumer

Apex Consumer

Decomposer

Why am I important?

- Some of the first greens to sprout in spring
- Favorite food of the Pomo people
- Flavorful, healthy and nutritious
- Supports other plants and animals (**biodiversity**) in the ecosystem
- **Primary producer** - uses photosynthesis to convert sunlight into energy.



Butterfly

What do I do?

Butterflies use their long tongues to collect and drink nectar. Butterflies spread pollen from plants to plants so they can grow. Due to loss of habitat, butterfly populations are not producing at a consistent rate, and so the population is reducing in size.

What do I eat?

Berries, sugary plants. Butterflies can also serve as decomposers, breaking down dead matter from many species.

Who eats me?

frogs, newts, lizards, mushrooms

Trophic level:

Primary Producer

Primary Consumer

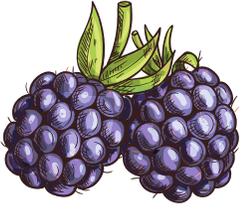
Secondary Consumer

Apex Consumer

Decomposer

Why am I important?

- Butterfly basket design is popular in many Native baskets
- Baskets are usually more decorative than functional
- **Primary consumers**, but can also serve as **decomposers**.



Blackberries

What do I do?

Blackberries prevent soil erosion. Many birds, and small mammals like squirrels, use blackberry thickets to create nests. Blackberries local to California are often small and slow-growing.

What do I eat?

blackberries need water and nutrient-rich soil

Who eats me?

humans, birds, coyotes, bears, quail, butterflies, mushrooms/decomposers

Trophic level:

Primary Producer

Primary Consumer

Secondary Consumer

Apex Consumer

Decomposer

Why am I important?

- Favorite summer food for many Natives
- Gathered in a **willow basket** woven loose enough for water and berry juice to drip through
- Eaten fresh or cooked down into a sweet sauce
- **Primary producers** - turns light from the sun into energy that they use to grow.



Human

What do I do?

Humans are responsible for helping the ecosystem stay balanced. They help do this by eating a variety of species, never eating or harvesting too much, and using science and technology to help protect nature.

What do I eat?

acorns, berries, deer, quail, mushrooms, seeds, roots, manzanita berries, clover, grasshoppers

Who eats me?

mushrooms, butterflies, and other decomposers

Trophic level:

Primary Producer

Primary Consumer

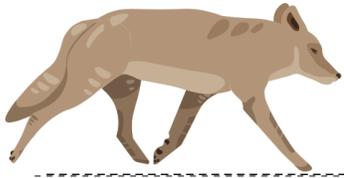
Secondary Consumer

Apex Consumer

Decomposer

Why am I important?

- Supports plant growth and control species populations
- Uses complex fire and harvesting techniques
- Keeps water clean
- Introduces plants to different ecosystems
- Relies on ecosystems for their food and supplies
- **Omnivores** - they eat both plants and animals
- **Apex consumers** - at the top of food chain



Coyote

What do I do?

Coyotes regulate the populations of many species including foxes, raccoons and other animals they eat. They are often a top predator. They live in burrows that they dig.

What do I eat?

small mammals, deer, quail/birds, frogs, berries, nuts, insects

Who eats me?

mountain lions, bears, eagles, mushrooms, vultures

Trophic level:

Primary Producer

Primary Consumer

Secondary Consumer

Apex Consumer

Decomposer

Why am I important?

- Plays an important role in California Native stories
- A **trickster** who distracts humans or creates trouble by breaking rules
- Often **apex predators**
- Keep the food web balanced by eating many species