

Ecosystems and Biomes ▪ *Enrich*

Food Webs at Hydrothermal Vents

Deep below the ocean's surface are strange ecosystems called hydrothermal vents. Here, heated water rises up through cracks in the ocean floor. The water contains minerals from Earth's interior. No sunlight ever reaches these vents. No plants or algae live there. The table below lists the organisms found at hydrothermal vents.

Life at a Hydrothermal Vent

Organisms	Obtain food energy from...
Shrimp	Bacteria in the water
Crabs	Remains of other organisms
Giant clams	Bacteria in the water
Bacteria	Make their own food from chemicals in the water
Giant tube worms	Bacteria living inside their bodies

Use the information in the table to respond to the following items.

1. Which organisms are the producers at hydrothermal vents?

2. Which organisms are first-level consumers?

3. What type of consumer are the crabs?

4. In the space below, draw the food web at a hydrothermal vent. Label each organism to identify its energy role in the ecosystem.