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Q22

Consider the following kinds of organisms: 1. Copepods 2. Cyanobacteria 3. Diatoms 4. Foraminifera Which of the above are primary producers in the food chains of oceans? (a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3 (c) 3 and 4 (d) 1 and 4 Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2021 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology

Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

1 and 2. Copepods are consumers, not primary producers.

(b) Official key

2 and 3. Cyanobacteria and diatoms photosynthesise. Foraminifera and copepods graze or heterotroph.

(c)

3 and 4. Forams are not the ocean's primary producers as a class.

(d)

1 and 4. Both are mainly consumers.

Summary

• **Official key is (b) 2 and 3. Ocean primary production is phytoplankton:** cyanobacteria and diatoms. Copepods are zooplankton; foraminifera are mostly heterotrophic protists.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Diatom

Silica frustule; a bulk of marine NPP.

Prochlorococcus

Cyanobacterium; the ocean's most abundant phototroph.

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