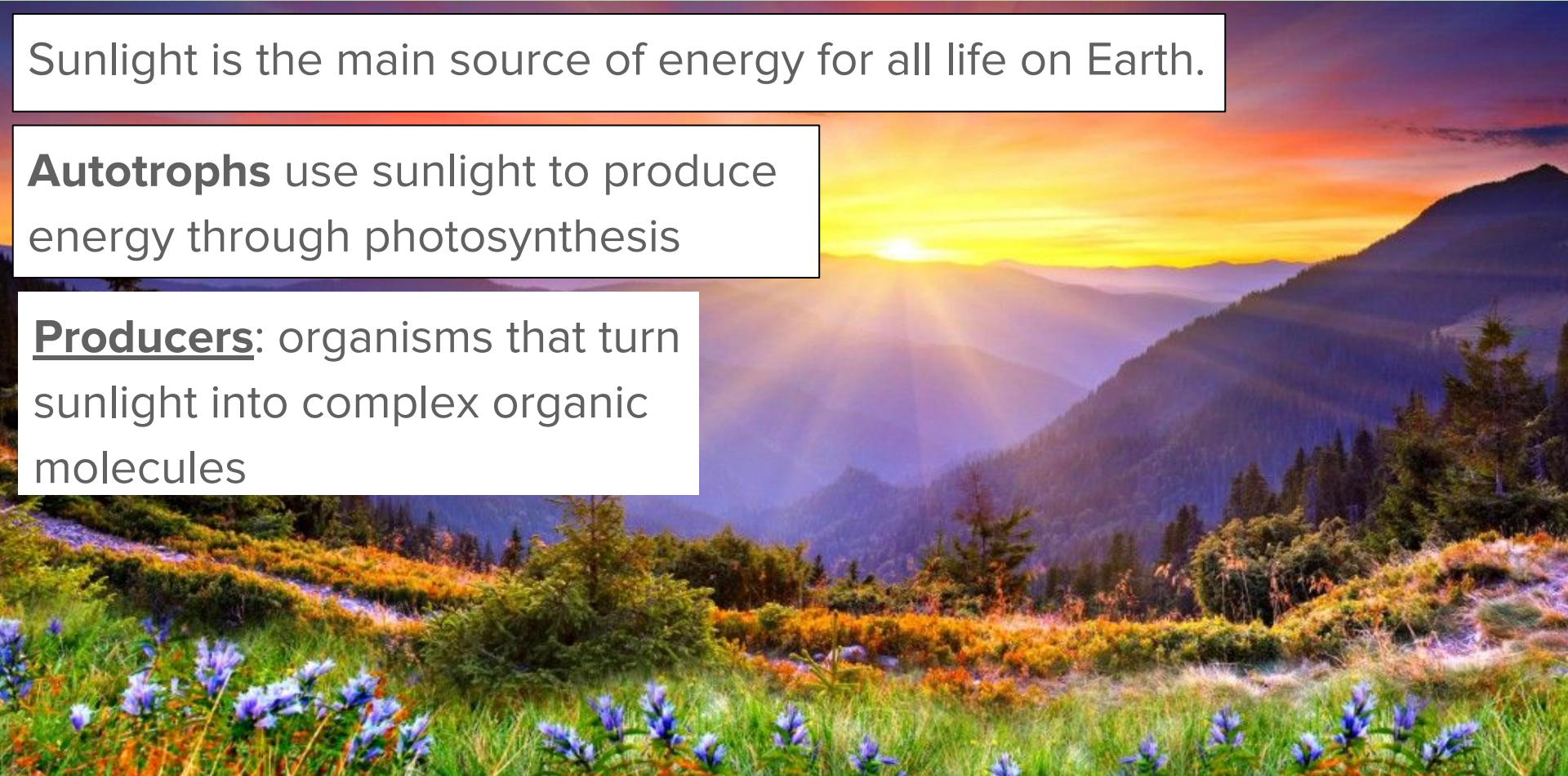


# Chapter 3.2 Energy Flow

Sunlight is the main source of energy for all life on Earth.

**Autotrophs** use sunlight to produce energy through photosynthesis

**Producers**: organisms that turn sunlight into complex organic molecules



**Consumers: (heterotrophs)** organisms that consume other organisms

- **Herbivores-** plant eaters
- **Carnivores-** meat eaters
- **Omnivores-** both plant and meat eaters



- **Detritivores**: consume the remains of dead organisms (*detritus*= *dead stuff*)



- **Decomposers**: break down organic matter into usable elements to be recycled in the ecosystem

