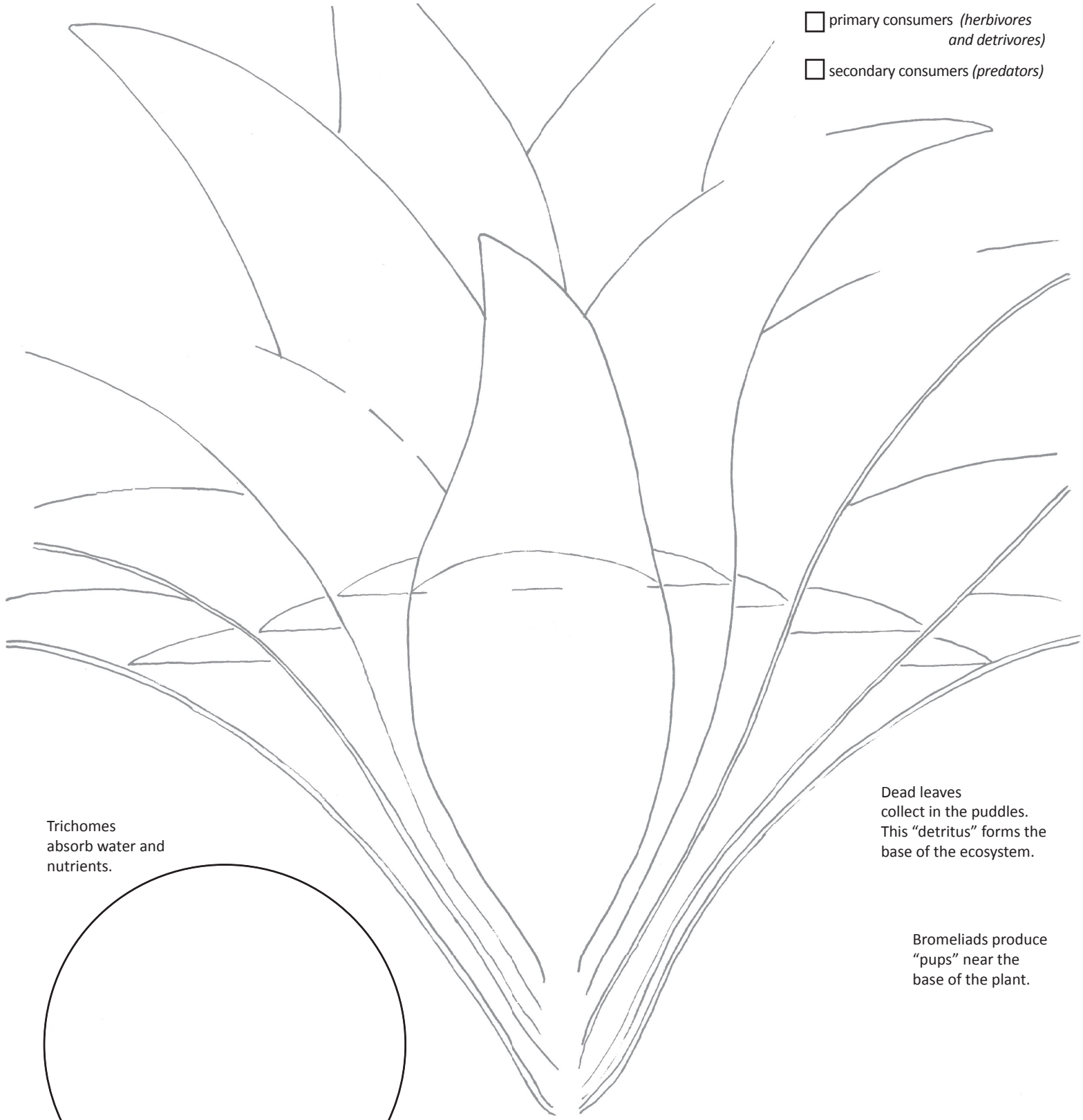


# BROMELIAD MICRO-ECOSYSTEM

Bromeliads are epiphyte plants that cling to trees in the rainforest, even up in the canopy. Rain water collects between the leaves and forms puddles that last for weeks. Dart frogs and many insects rely on these puddles to complete their life cycle.

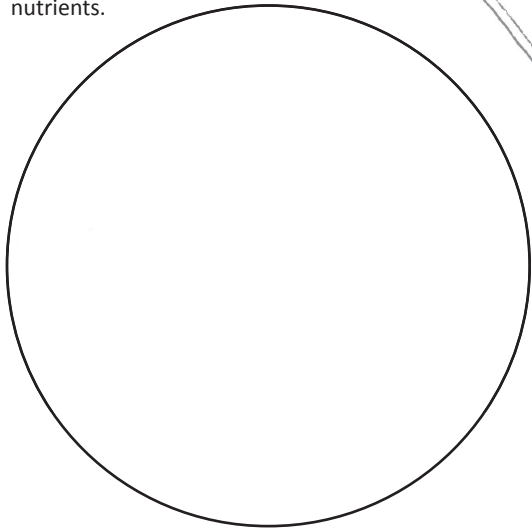
- primary consumers (*herbivores and detritivores*)
- secondary consumers (*predators*)



Trichomes absorb water and nutrients.

Dead leaves collect in the puddles. This "detritus" forms the base of the ecosystem.

Bromeliads produce "pups" near the base of the plant.



MICROSCOPIC VIEW

Tank bromeliads can grow on the ground, but mostly they grow on trees, often high up in the canopy.