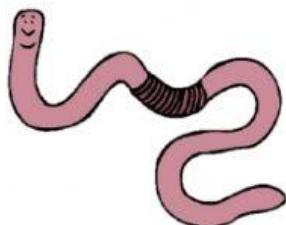


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_



# Decomposers



- Read the passage and answer the questions given below.

## Decomposers Help Our Planet

What do millipedes, banana slugs, worms, bacteria, and mushrooms have in common? They are all **decomposers** or living things that eat organic matter. Organic matter includes pieces of plants and animals that were once alive and are now in a state of rotting or decay. This includes leftover food like orange peels, half-eaten sandwiches, and apple cores. When decomposers eat organic matter, they pass it through their bodies and break it down into compost.



Compost looks like dirt or soil and is the color of dark chocolate. It is crumbly and smells clean and fresh like the earth after it rains. Compost acts like a vitamin pill—it adds important vitamins or nutrients to the soil. Just like people need vitamins to stay strong and healthy, so do plants. When the soil is full of nutrients, more plants are able to grow. Compost can help produce more food for people in a natural and earth friendly way.



1. List 5 different decomposers that are discussed in the reading passage.

I. \_\_\_\_\_

II. \_\_\_\_\_

III. \_\_\_\_\_

IV. \_\_\_\_\_

V. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Describe what compost looks like and smells like.

Looks Like:

Smells Like:

3. Drag and drop the words in the blanks after reading the passage given below.

## Trash Gas

Landfills are more than just garbage dumps; they also leak harmful gases into the air that are changing the temperature of the planet! When leftover food is trapped with no air, a gas called methane is created. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas that traps heat from the sun. This is important because it keeps our planet warm enough so we can survive. However, if too many greenhouse gases are created, then too much heat gets trapped in the atmosphere or layer of air surrounding the earth. Over time, this raises the average temperature of the planet and creates serious changes in our weather. This is called global warming or climate change. Most scientists agree that global warming is already happening due to human activities like burning oil and gasoline.

global warming

methane

greenhouse

When food is trapped in a landfill without air, it creates a harmful gas called \_\_\_\_\_. This gas is classified as a \_\_\_\_\_ gas.

When too many of these gases get trapped in the atmosphere, it can cause \_\_\_\_\_.