

Classwork

1 Read the text and choose TRUE or FALSE

Food Chain Q&A

Q: Decomposers are horrible! They get energy from waste, dead plants, and dead animals. Yuck! Do we really need them? (Kayla, 9)

A: Imagine an ecosystem without decomposers. It's a place full of dead plants and animals. There's no place for new life to grow. There's animal waste everywhere. (Now, that's yucky!) Mushrooms, bacteria (really small forms of life), and earthworms clean all this up. Do you still think we can do without them?

Q: Are decomposers part of the food chain? (Vas, 10)

A: Yes, they are. Every link in the food chain is important. When decomposers, like earthworms, break down dead matter or waste, it turns into nutrients and minerals in the soil. Producers use sunlight and water to make sugar, but they cannot grow without these nutrients. Without decomposers, producers cannot stay alive. The food chain breaks because, without producers, there's no food for consumers. This means that the ecosystem is destroyed.



2 What can you remember? Read the text again and find the names of three decomposers. in order of appearance.

3 True or false? Circle *T* (true) or *F* (false), correct the sentences in your notebook.

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| 1 Decomposers make room for new plants to grow. | T / F |
| 2 Producers are the most important link in the food chain. | T / F |
| 3 Producers can make all their own nutrients. | T / F |
| 4 The ecosystem is destroyed when the food chain breaks. | T / F |