



U2 M1 Lesson 3 The Role of Decomposers  
**PRACTICE EXERCISES**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Part A. Direction: Write the correct answer/s on the space provided.





- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. It is the breakdown of dead organisms and waste.  
a. decomposition      b. nutrients      c. environment      d. ecosystem
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Which of the following are decomposers? Choose TWO correct answers.  
a. plants      b. mushrooms      c. bacteria      d. tiger
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Decomposers are important to the health and balance of an ecosystem because they:  
a. prey on overpopulated animals  
b. break down plant and animal matter  
c. are food for plants  
d. produce oxygen for living things
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. How do decomposers help humans manage the amount of food waste they produce?  
a. Decomposers help food ripen.  
b. Decomposers cause food to get moldy.  
c. Decomposers help break down food waste.  
d. No correct answer
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. What is the role of a decomposer in an ecosystem?  
a. produce oxygen for plants  
b. break down dead organisms .  
c. transport nutrients to air  
d. absorb energy of to make food
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. A living organism that puts materials from dead plants and animals back to the soil is called a \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. herbivore      b. carnivore      c. omnivore      d. decomposer
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Which statement about decomposers is NOT true?  
a. Soil decomposers are helpful to plants.  
b. Decomposers are found in all ecosystems.  
c. Decomposers are not living things.  
d. Decomposers remove material from dead

- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Why would a farmer bury rotten fruits and vegetables?
- to make the rotten fruits and vegetables better to eat
  - to remove decomposers from the soil
  - to improve the quality (or health) of the soil
  - to add trash to the soil
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Decomposition is a process that adds nutrients to the soil. If you want to add nutrients to the soil, which of the following would you NOT add?
- rocks
  - dead leaves
  - dead worms
  - rotten apples
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Which of the following is NOT TRUE for mold and mushrooms?
- they are decomposers
  - they are plants
  - they break down materials into simpler substances
  - they feed on dead organisms
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Decomposers grow best in..... environments.
- warm and dry
  - warm and wet
  - cold and wet
  - cold and dry
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Bacteria and fungi act as decomposers which recycle materials back into the soil.
- True
  - False
  - Maybe
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. You open your fridge and find that the tomatoes and cucumber have started decomposing. What might be the reason?
- there is no oxygen in the fridge
  - the tomatoes and the cucumbers were dry
  - the fridge is not cooling enough
  - the fridge is cooling enough
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. A type of single-cell organism.
- fungi
  - earthworm
  - species
  - bacteria
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Fungi are not plants, because they cannot make their own \_\_\_\_\_.
- food
  - water
  - minerals
  - soil

Part B.

Do the following images show decomposers?

Write the word 'yes' or 'no' below each picture to identify the decomposers.

			
plants	mushroom	bacteria	tiger
16.	17.	18.	19.


Write 'T' if the statement is TRUE, and 'F' if the statement is FALSE.

T or F	Statement
20.	Soil decomposers are not helpful to plants.
21.	Decomposers only remove and recycle materials from dead animals.
22.	Decomposition is the breakdown of dead organisms and waste.
23.	Fungi, bacteria, yeast, and earthworms are types of decomposers.
24.	Decomposers are NOT living things.

25. What are the roles of decomposers? Circle all correct answers.

A.   
help plants absorb the Sun's energy

B.   
remove and recycle materials from dead organisms

C.   
add nutrients to the soil for plant growth

D.   
help animals smell their foods

ANSWERKEY

1. a  
 2. bc  
 3. b  
 4. c  
 5. b  
 6. d  
 7. c  
 8. c  
 9. a  
 10. b  
 11. b  
 12. a  
 13. c  
 14. d  
 15. a  
 16. No  
 17. Yes  
 18. Yes  
 19. No  
 20. F  
 21. F  
 22. T  
 23. T