Name: Date: Score: / 8

Decomposers at Work: Learn and Practice

Nature's recyclers turn waste into soil

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

💡 Decomposers

- Decomposers break down dead plants and animals.
- Fungi, bacteria and worms are decomposers.
- They return nutrients to the soil so new plants can grow.
- fallen leaves, worms and fungi: rich soil

1 🍄 Which is a decomposer?

A. A sunflower B. A mushroom C. A rabbit
D. A hawk

2 🦠 Which decomposers are too tiny to see?

A. Mushrooms B. Bacteria C. Worms
D. Beetles

3 What do decomposers return to the soil?

A. Only sand B. Glass C. Nutrients D. Plastic

4 A compost bin turns food scraps into what?

A. Plastic B. Rich soil called compost
C. Clean water D. Rocks

5 🪱 Why are earthworms good for gardens?

A. They make soil dry
B. They break down waste and loosen soil
C. They scare birds away
D. They eat all the plants

6 🪵 What happens to a fallen log over many years?

A. It becomes a rock quickly
B. It rots and becomes soil C. It grows taller
D. It turns into metal

7 What do decomposers break down?

A. Dead plants and animals B. Metal
C. Sunlight D. Rocks

8 What would happen to a forest with no decomposers?

A. Trees would grow faster
B. Soil would get richer
C. Dead material would pile up
D. Nothing would change

✏️ Explain it! Write two facts you learned about decomposers at work.

ANSWER KEY

Decomposers at Work: Learn and Practice (answers)

Nature's recyclers turn waste into soil

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

1 🍄 Which is a decomposer?

A. A sunflower **B. A mushroom** C. A rabbit

D. A hawk

Mushrooms are fungi. They break down dead material and return nutrients to the soil.

2 🦠 Which decomposers are too tiny to see?

A. Mushrooms **B. Bacteria** C. Worms

D. Beetles

Bacteria are microscopic, but there are billions of them hard at work in soil.

3 What do decomposers return to the soil?

A. Only sand B. Glass **C. Nutrients** D. Plastic

As they break things down, decomposers release nutrients that plants need.

4 A compost bin turns food scraps into what?

A. Plastic **B. Rich soil called compost**

C. Clean water D. Rocks

Decomposers in the bin break the scraps down into dark, rich compost.

5 🪱 Why are earthworms good for gardens?

A. They make soil dry

B. They break down waste and loosen soil

C. They scare birds away

D. They eat all the plants

Worms munch dead leaves and their tunnels let air and water into the soil.

6 🪵 What happens to a fallen log over many years?

A. It becomes a rock quickly

B. It rots and becomes soil C. It grows taller

D. It turns into metal

Fungi, bacteria and insects slowly break the log down until it becomes part of the soil.

7 What do decomposers break down?

A. Dead plants and animals B. Metal

C. Sunlight D. Rocks

Decomposers feed on dead and rotting material, breaking it into tiny pieces.

8 What would happen to a forest with no decomposers?

A. Trees would grow faster

B. Soil would get richer

C. Dead material would pile up

D. Nothing would change

Without decomposers, dead leaves and logs would never break down, and nutrients would stay locked up.