

1. Read the following paragraph and fill in the gaps with words from the box below. Each word may be used once, more than once, or not at all.

bacteria	mineral salts	herbivores	decomposers	nutrients
water	dead	fungi	plants	

Plants take \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ from the soil and use them to help build new plant material. \_\_\_\_\_ eat the plants. The organic waste from animal droppings and \_\_\_\_\_ animals and plants is broken down by \_\_\_\_\_. These organisms include \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. They use some of the \_\_\_\_\_ and release others back into the soil to be taken up and used again by \_\_\_\_\_.

2. People use decomposers to make compost.

a. Describe decomposers.

They break down dead bodies and plants so they can release the nutrients and mineral salts back in the soil for the plants.

b. People use decomposers to make compost. Describe compost.

It's brown soil made by decomposers, that has minerals and nutrients and is broken down from garden and kitchen waste to be made.

c. Explain the importance of using decomposers to make compost.

Because compost contains mineral salts and nutrients that helps the plants to grow bigger and better.

**Extension**

Sewage is the term we use for human bodily waste.

- a. Explain why sewage is a growing problem.
- b. Describe how the decomposers can help solve the problems of sewage.
- c. Explain why it is important to get rid of human sewage.

1. Draw lines to match each word to the correct definition.

Word
A predator
B prey
C consumer
D producer
E herbivore
F carnivore
G scavenger

Definition
1 eats other living things to obtain nutrients
2 hunts and eats other animals
3 is hunted and eaten by other animals
4 only eats plants
5 makes its own food
6 only eats animals that are already dead
7 only eats animals

2. Look at this food chain:

maize → mice → snakes → mongooses →

- Name the producer in this food chain. ....
- Name a consumer in this food chain which is also a herbivore. ....
- State a consumer which is both predator and prey. ....
- Explain why all the arrows in the food chain point away from the producer. ....
- Add the decomposers to the diagram and describe what they do. ....

3. This diagram shows part of a desert food web.

a. Define the term 'food web'.

A food web is a model of the feeding relationships between organisms

b. Explain the advantages of using a food web instead of a food chain.

Most animals eat more than one kind of organisms, so it is more realistic.

c. Name two herbivores and two carnivores in this food web.

Mice, ants

Snakes and spider

d. Two important types of organisms are missing from this food web. State what they are and explain why each is so important.

The producer: the make bio mass by photosynthesis.  
decomposers break down biomass and return mineral salts to the soil to be used by plants

