FOOD WEBS: WHERE DOES MATTER GO?

Tracing matter through plants, animals, and decomposers

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TODAY WE WILL...

WE ARE LEARNING TO

- Describe how matter moves in a food web
- Explain what decomposers return to the environment
- Build a model with arrows for matter

SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

- ✓ I can trace matter from plants to animals and back
- ✓ I can show how decomposers help new plants grow

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WHO DOES WHAT IN A FOOD WEB?

1. Producer (plant) makes its own food from sunlight.
2. Consumer (animal) eats plants or other animals.
3. Decomposer breaks down dead stuff and wastes.
4. Arrows show where matter moves next.

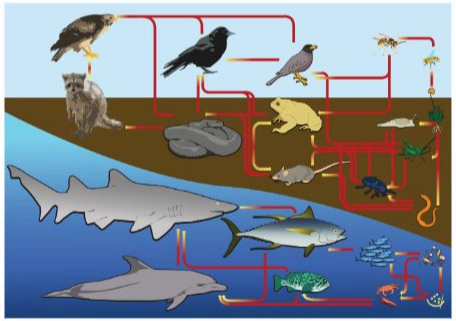


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HOW MATTER MOVES



1. Plants make food matter from air, water, sunlight
2. Animals eat plants or animals for that matter
3. Living things leave wastes and later die
4. Decomposers break dead matter into tiny pieces
5. Plants reuse water, carbon dioxide, minerals again

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WHICH GROUP MATTERS MOST?

If you could protect only one group to keep matter moving, which would you pick?

- **A** Producers (plants)
- **B** Consumers (animals)
- **C** Decomposers (mold and bacteria)
- **D** All are equally needed

Vote with your hands, then explain why.

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WATCH: PRODUCERS, CONSUMERS, DECOMPOSERS



▶ 0:00 – 4:29

- Spot the producer, consumer, and decomposer
- Watch which way the arrows point

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DECOMPOSERS ARE RECYCLERS

1. Mold and bacteria are main decomposers.
2. They eat dead leaves, logs, and animal wastes.
3. They leave minerals, water, and carbon dioxide behind.
4. Plants take those in to grow again.

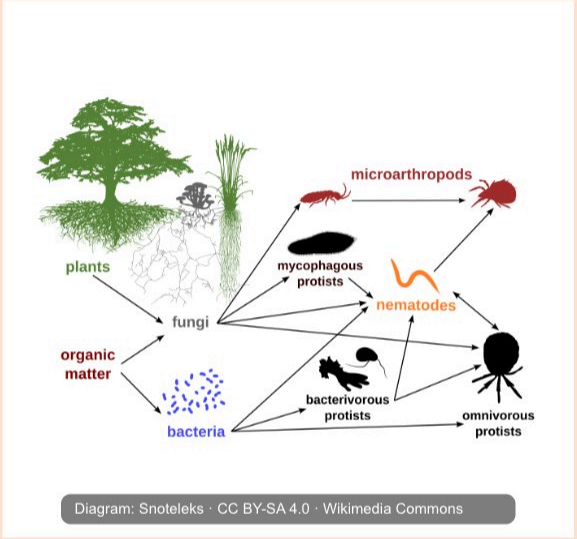


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WATCH: DIRT ON DECOMPOSERS



▶ 0:00 – 3:19

- How decomposers break food into tiny pieces
- What returns to soil and air for plants

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YOUR TASK

Build a food-web model that shows where matter goes.

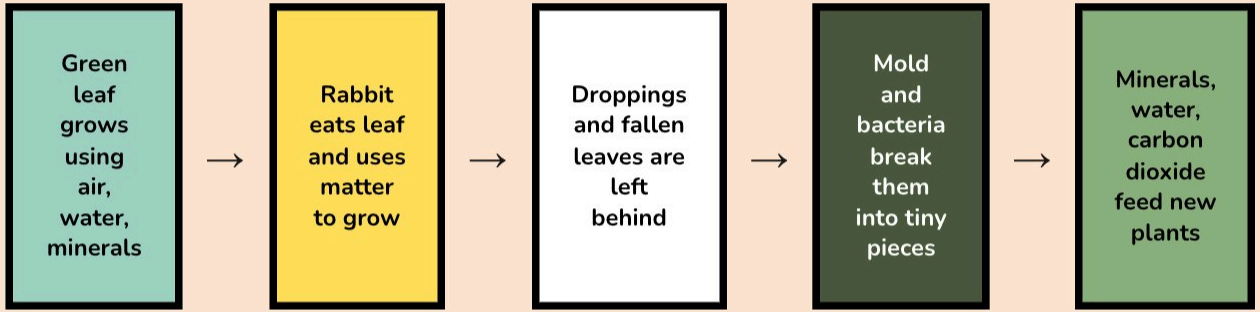
1. Pick a plant, two animals, and decomposers for your web
2. Draw boxes for living things, soil, and air
3. Add arrows to show matter moving step by step
4. Label what decomposers return for plants to reuse

15 min

Groups of 4

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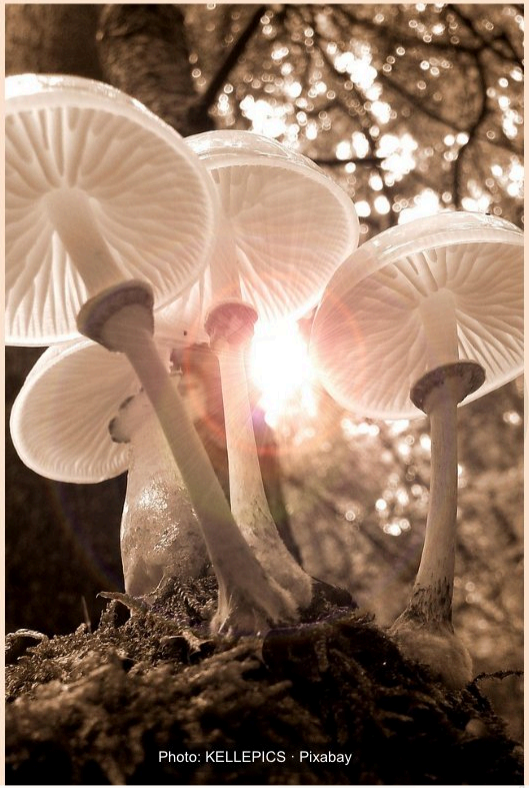
A LEAF'S MATTER JOURNEY



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THINK, PAIR, SHARE

If nothing ever rotted, what would plants run out of and why?



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EXIT TICKET

1. One way matter gets back to plants is...

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2. One question I still have is...

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3. Draw one arrow from your model and explain it

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