

Meet the Decomposers

The tiny team that turns scraps into soil

Name: _____

Date: _____

Nothing breaks down scraps by itself — a whole team of living helpers does the work. Read what each decomposer does on the right, then write its **number** in the blank box next to the job it matches.

1



Earthworm

2



Fungi (mold)

3



Bacteria

4



Pillbug

5



Beetle

6



Nematode

Backyard check: which of these decomposers have you spotted before — in a garden, under a rock, or in a park? Where?

DRAW YOUR FAVOURITE DECOMPOSER HERE

What's my job?

- ☐ **A** I'm too small to see, but there are billions of me. I get to work fast, breaking down soft food scraps in the very first days.
- ☐ **B** I tunnel through scraps and eat them, then leave behind rich droppings called castings that plants love.
- ☐ **C** I hunt other small decomposers and help keep everything in the system balanced.
- ☐ **D** I grow thread-like strands that can break down tough things, like woody stems and dead leaves, that other helpers can't chew.
- ☐ **E** I munch on soft, rotting plant material and help turn big pieces into smaller, easier-to-break-down ones.
- ☐ **F** I'm a worm so tiny you'd need a microscope to see me, and I feast on the bacteria and fungi living in the scraps.

Word bank: earthworm · fungi (mold) · bacteria · pillbug · beetle · nematode

Bonus: which decomposer do you think is the most important to the whole team? Why?

DID YOU KNOW? A single tablespoon of finished compost can hold more living organisms than there are people on Earth — most of them bacteria and fungi too small to see without a microscope.