

Name: _____

Soil and Decomposers: A Perfect Pair



Instructions: Read the two paragraphs below. Use the underlined phrases and other parts of the paragraphs to synthesize the information. Then write responses to the prompts below.

Soil	Decomposers
<p>Have you ever wondered why soil is important? Soil is necessary for the survival of many plants and animals. It provides heat, nutrients, and water to plants. In addition, soil is a part of <u>waste conversion</u>. This happens when <u>waste is turned into nutrients</u>. <u>Soil contains nutrients that are necessary for life and this contributes to the growth of animals</u>. Animals eat plants that grow in soil. Soil is a very important part of the <u>cycle of life</u>!</p>	<p>Did you know that <u>recycling</u> can happen naturally? Decomposers are a part of this process. They <u>recycle the energy</u> from dead plants and animals, giving it back to the ecosystem. <u>Chemical nutrients</u> like carbon and nitrogen are produced. Without decomposers, this cycle couldn't continue! As strange as it may sound, <u>living things depend on decomposers</u> to maintain an environment where they can thrive!</p>

Combine the information found in the paragraphs above to show how soil and decomposers contribute to the ecosystem.

How are soil and decomposers similar? How are they different?
