

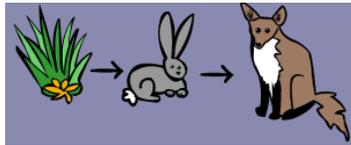
Activity: Watch, Read, Answer:

TedEd Video: [Dead Stuff: The Secret Ingredient in Our Food Chain](#)

Read this article on earthworms – make sure to click on the flora and fauna tab!

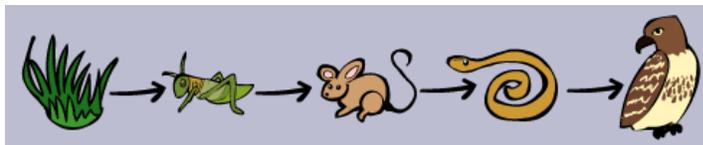
<https://www.brainpop.com/science/earthsystem/soil/relatedreading/#tab=1>

- 1) Are decomposers alive?
- 2) What would it look like if there were no decomposers?
- 3) Can you draw a simple food chain?



Example:

- 4) Can you draw a bigger food chain using 5 forms of energy?

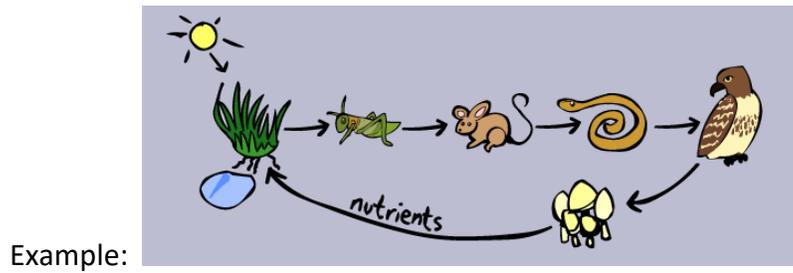


Example:

- 5) What is the green food chain compared to the brown food chain?

Decomposers

6) Can you draw a food chain that uses decomposers?



7) Are earthworms an insect? List as many reasons as you can to support your answer.

Activity: Go outside – explore your outdoor space

- 1) Gather some examples of the materials that top soil is comprised of (leaves, grass, sand, rocks, and other organic matter). Put in a pile and manually try to break these materials down into the smallest possible parts you can (tear, smash, stomp, shred, etc.).

Is it top soil yet? Why not?

- 2) Next, do you have a space where you can dig down into the ground to see what your soil looks like? What's it look like? Smell like? What color is it? How broken down are the organic materials in your top soil? Does it look like the top soil you tried to create, or is it more broken down?

- 3) Find a rock, log, or anything that has been sitting on the ground for a little while. Roll it over, is there anything living underneath? What is it? Look carefully, how many insects or worms do you see? How many decomposers other than bugs do you see?

- See if you can find 10 total decomposers in your space (you will probably have to look in multiple areas). Make a list of what you have found in the space below (you will use this list later).

What did you find?	How many did you find?
Example: Worm	Example: 5
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	

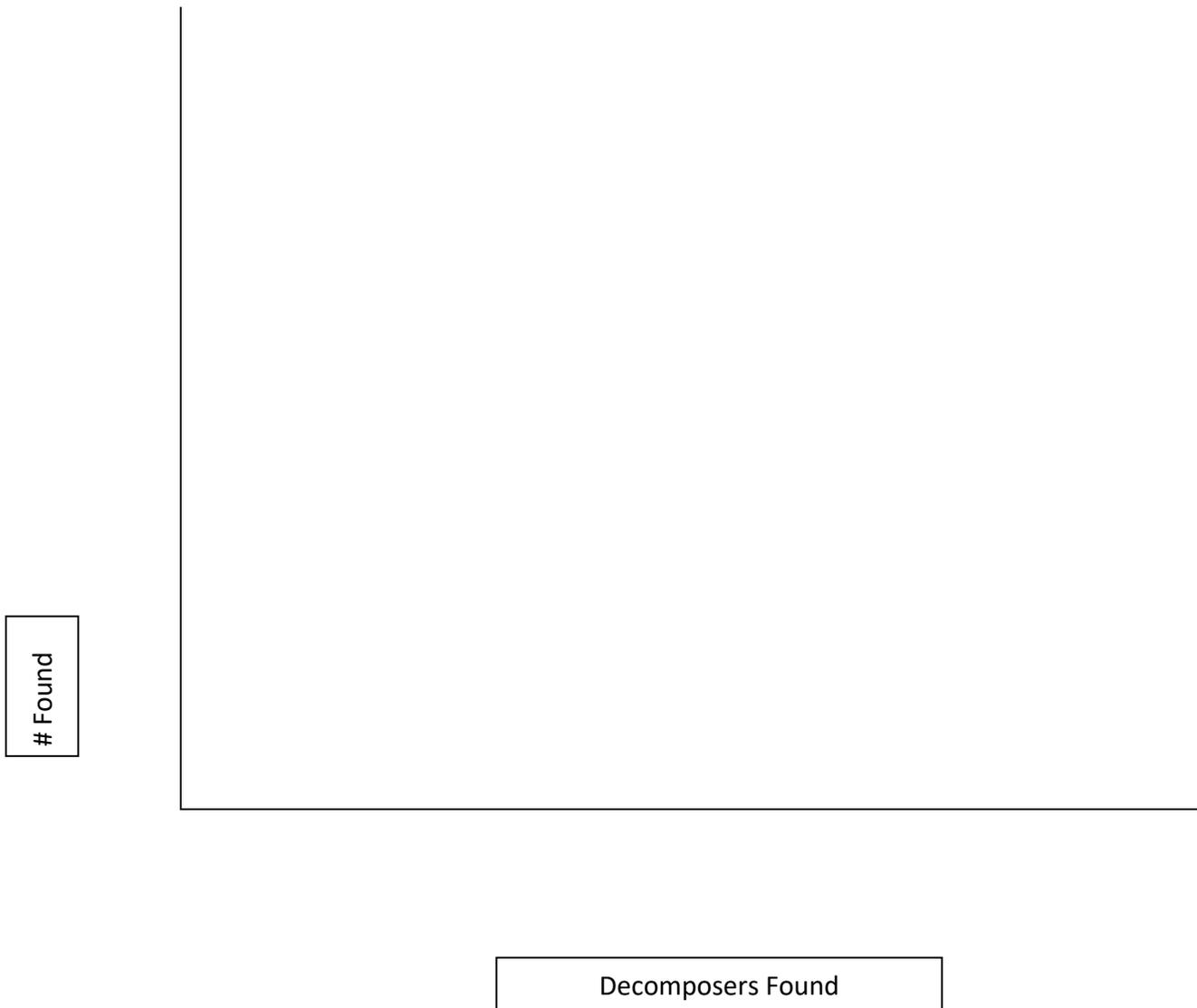
On the following page draw a detailed picture of one of the bugs you found. If you didn't find anything, draw a picture of what you think you would have found. Label the characteristics that make what you found interesting. Write down any questions you may have about that bug.

Decomposers

As a class complete the following table

What did you find?	How many did you find?
Example: Worm	Example: 5
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

Activity: Create a bar graph of the decomposers found in our cumulative spaces.



LINKS IN A FOOD CHAIN ~Author Unknown

There once was a flower that grew on the plain. Where the sun helped it grow, and so did the rain-- Links in a food chain.

There once was a bug who nibbled on flowers, Nibbled on flowers for hours and hours! The bug ate the flower that grew on the plain, Where the sun helped it grow, and so did the rain-- Links in a food chain.

There once was a bird who gobbled up bugs, And creepies and crawlies, and slimies and slugs. The bird ate the bug, who nibbled on flowers, Nibbled on flowers for hours and hours! The bug ate the flower that grew on the plain, Where the sun helped it grow, and so did the rain-- Links in a food chain.

There once was a snake who often grabbed birds, And swallowed them whole, or so I have heard. The snake ate the bird, who gobbled up bugs, And creepies and crawlies, and slimies and slugs.

The bird ate the bug, who nibbled on flowers, Nibbled on flowers for hours and hours! The bug ate the flower that grew on the plain, Where the sun helped it grow, and so did the rain-- Links in a food chain.

There once was a fox, and I'll make a bet: He'd eat anything he could possibly get. The fox ate the snake, who often grabbed birds, and swallowed the whole, or so I have heard. The snake ate the bird, who gobbled up bugs, And creepies and crawlies, and slimies and slugs. The bird ate the bug, who nibbled on flowers, Nibbled on flowers for hours and hours! The bug ate the flower that grew on the plain, Where the sun helped it grow, and so did the rain-- Links in a food chain.

The fox, he grew older and died one spring day, But he made the soil rich, when he rotted away.