

Lesson Plan

Decomposer Details

Series: Decomposers

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice answering questions and summarizing key details about a type of decomposer described in a nonfiction text.

Supplies

- One or more books in the Decomposers series
- Whiteboard
- Pieces of paper
- Pencils

Before the Activity

Write the following questions on the whiteboard:

1. What type of decomposer is the book about?
2. Where does this decomposer typically live?
3. What materials does this decomposer break down?
4. How does this decomposer break things down?
5. How does this decomposer help ecosystems?
6. Can this decomposer hurt ecosystems or people? If yes, how?
7. Does this decomposer interact with other life-forms? If yes, how?
8. What might happen to ecosystems if this decomposer didn't exist?

Activity

Divide students into groups of three to four. Pass out a book from the Decomposers series to each group. Students should read the book together. As they read, they should look for answers to the questions on the whiteboard. Each group should choose one person to be the scribe. This student will write the group's answers on a piece of paper. Each answer should be a complete sentence. It should also have a number in front of it. This number will tell which question on the board it is answering. All students in the group should also write their names at the top of the page.

Evaluation

Collect each group's paper at the end of class. Use the following system to give each group up to 16 points:

- 1 point for each question that is answered accurately
- 1 point for each answer that is a complete sentence

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grade 3 (RI 3.1), and the National Science Education Standards' Content Standard C, grades K–4.