#### **FOCUS QUESTIONS FOR**

## **Bacteria**

1.	Write	a sentence	describing	one way	bacteria l	help	ecosystem	S.
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2. Which trait of bacteria do you think is most useful? Why?

- **3.** What type of living thing makes its own food?
  - A. producer
  - **B.** consumer
  - C. decomposer
- **4.** What might happen if someone had too much or too little bacteria in their intestines?
  - **A.** They might get very sick.
  - **B.** They might feel much better.
  - **C.** They might not feel any different.

**5.** What does **moisture** mean in the *Bacteria* book?

All bacteria need moisture. So, they are common in water.

- A. wetness
- **B.** dryness
- C. bright sunlight
- **6.** What does **risky** mean in the *Bacteria* book?

Adding bacteria to ecosystems is **risky**. Adding too much could cause problems. So could using the wrong types.

- A. totally safe
- B. possibly unsafe
- C. too expensive

#### **Answer Key for Bacteria**

- 1. Answers will vary
- 2. Answers will vary
- **3**. A
- **4.** A
- **5**. A
- **6.** B

# FOCUS QUESTIONS FOR Fungi

**1.** Write a sentence describing one way fungi help ecosystems stay balanced.

2. Which fact about fungi did you find most interesting? Why?

- **3.** How do decomposers get energy?
  - A. by producing their own food
  - **B.** by hunting other living things
  - C. by breaking things down
- **4.** What might happen to plants if fungi did not exist?
  - **A.** Animals would eat all the plants.
  - **B.** Plants wouldn't take in enough nutrients.
  - C. Plants would grow much bigger.

**5.** What does **impacts** mean in the *Fungi* book?

This process **impacts** ecosystems in many ways. It keeps dead things from piling up. It also helps gases and nutrients move between organisms.

- A. has an effect on
- **B.** stays away from
- C. is not part of
- **6.** What does **variety** mean in the *Fungi* book?

They live in a wide **variety** of places. Some live in soil. Others live in air or water.

- A. a single type
- **B.** a large range
- C. a dry area

#### **Answer Key for Fungi**

- 1. Answers will vary
- 2. Answers will vary
- **3**. C
- **4.** B
- **5**. A
- **6.** B

## FOCUS QUESTIONS FOR

## Larvae

	1.	Write a	few	sentences	explaining	the main	ideas of	<sup>:</sup> Chapter 3
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2. Would you want larvae living near you? Why or why not?

- 3. What do flies and beetles become after they are larvae?
  - A. humus
  - **B.** producers
  - C. pupae
- **4.** Why might grubs need to eat away from other animals?
  - A. so other animals don't eat the grubs
  - **B.** so the grubs don't eat other larvae
  - **C.** so producers don't eat the grubs

**5.** What does **predators** mean in the *Larvae* book?

Soon, other insects will arrive. They include wasps, ants, and beetles. These **predators** feed on some of the larvae.

- A. animals that eat other animals
- **B.** animals that have six legs
- C. animals that dig underground
- 6. What does diseases mean in the Larvae book?

Waste can carry many **diseases**. It can cause humans and animals to get sick.

- A. leaves
- **B.** illnesses
- C. larvae

#### **Answer Key for Larvae**

- 1. Answers will vary
- 2. Answers will vary
- **3**. C
- **4.** A
- **5**. A
- **6.** B

# FOCUS QUESTIONS FOR Millipedes

1.	Write	a few	sentence	s expl	laining	the	main	ideas	of	Chapt	er	2.

2. Would you want millipedes living near you? Why or why not?

- 3. What do millipedes mostly eat?
  - A. dead plants
  - **B.** living plants
  - C. other herbivores
- **4.** Which of these animals is a predator?
  - A. a millipede
  - **B.** a rabbit
  - C. a frog

**5.** What does **habitats** mean in the *Millipedes* book?

Forests are common **habitats**. So are gardens. Many millipedes can live anywhere with enough water and soil.

- A. food that animals eat
- **B.** areas where animals live
- **C.** different types of animals
- **6.** What does **thrive** mean in the *Millipedes* book?

Millipede poop returns nutrients to the soil. New plants can **thrive** in it. The poop helps plants grow better.

- A. do well
- **B.** do poorly
- C. do nothing

#### **Answer Key for Millipedes**

- 1. Answers will vary
- 2. Answers will vary
- **3**. A
- **4.** C
- **5**. B
- **6**. A

## FOCUS QUESTIONS FOR **Termites**

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2. What fact about termites is most interesting to you? Why?

- 3. What life-form do termites have a symbiotic relationship with?
  - **A.** humans
  - **B.** microorganisms
  - **C.** trees
- **4.** How could adding nutrients to the soil help other plants survive?
  - **A.** The plants could live with few nutrients.
  - **B.** The plants could die from termite poop.
  - **C.** The plants could grow in more places.

- **5.** What does **decaying** mean in the *Termites* book?
  - Soon, it finds a decaying log. The dead wood is falling apart.
    - **A.** healthy
    - **B.** rotting
    - C. green
- **6.** What does **consume** mean in the *Termites* book?

Sometimes, they eat living things. But termites mostly **consume** dead material.

- A. feed on
- **B.** ignore
- C. swim in

#### **Answer Key for Termites**

- 1. Answers will vary
- 2. Answers will vary
- **3**. B
- **4.** C
- **5**. B
- **6**. A

## FOCUS QUESTIONS FOR Worms

<b>1.</b> Write a few sentences explaining how worms help the ecosystem.
<b>2.</b> Would you want to have worms living near you? Why or why not?

- **3.** What organ in a worm does soil reach first?
  - **A.** the intestine
  - **B.** the crop
  - C. the gizzard
- **4.** How could dead plant material protect sugar maple trees?
  - **A.** It helps grow small plants for animals to eat instead of trees.
  - **B.** It helps make trees stronger than any animal.
  - **C.** It stops sugar maple trees from growing at all.

**5.** What does **benefits** mean in the *Worms* book?

Good soil **benefits** the whole food chain. First, plants can grow better. Then, plant-eating animals such as rabbits have more to eat.

- A. helps something
- **B.** hurts something
- C. eats something
- **6.** What does **prey** mean in the *Worms* book?

Worms are also **prey** for many animals. Beetles, frogs, and birds all eat worms.

- A. animals that eat plants
- **B.** animals that get eaten
- C. animals that do not eat

#### **Answer Key for Worms**

- 1. Answers will vary
- 2. Answers will vary
- **3**. B
- **4.** A
- **5**. A
- **6.** B