

Decomposer Dash

Ecosystems & Food Webs

Name: _____

Date: _____

Circle the best answer for 1 and 2. Answer 3 in complete sentences.

1. Which of these is a decomposer?

- (A) Fern
- (B) Bacteria
- (C) Deer
- (D) Hawk

2. Why are there fewer top predators than producers in an ecosystem?

- (A) Predators are lazy
- (B) Energy is lost at each level of the food chain
- (C) Producers eat predators
- (D) Predators live longer

Read: In a pond, algae → snails → sunfish → herons. A survey found: Year 1 sunfish = 400, snails = 900. Year 2 (after a disease killed most sunfish) sunfish = 60, snails = 2,100.

3. Explain why the snail population changed. Use the data.

Use Claim-Evidence-Reasoning: Claim, Evidence, Reasoning.

Decomposer Dash: Exit Ticket

Total: 5 points. Mastery: 4 or more.

#	Answer	Points
1	(B) Bacteria	1 point
2	(B) Energy is lost at each level of the food chain	1 point
3	Claim: Snails increased because their predator, the sunfish, decreased. Evidence: Sunfish fell from 400 to 60 while snails rose from 900 to 2,100. Reasoning: In the food web, sunfish eat snails. With fewer predators, more snails survived and reproduced, which shows that a change in one population affects the others connected to it.	3 points: Claim: fewer sunfish -> more snails; Evidence: uses both population numbers; Reasoning: predator-prey relationship in the food web.