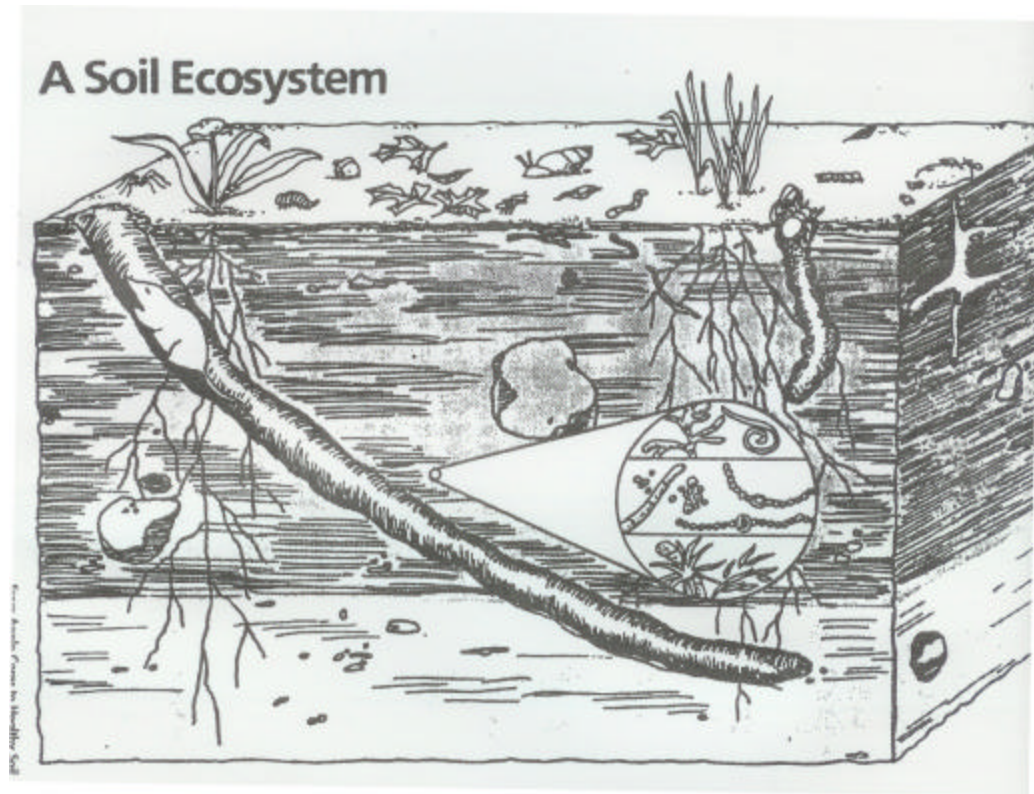


**FOOD, LAND, AND PEOPLE  
FCAT ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS  
PRE/POST TEST  
Answer Key**

**FROM APPLE CORES TO HEALTHY SOILS**

Please select the **best** answer.

1. SC.G.1.2.4, SC.G.1.2.6



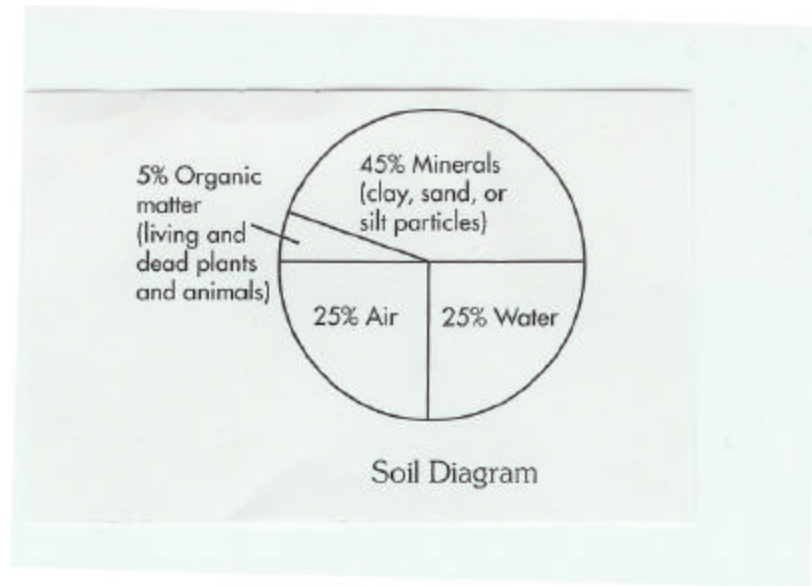
Which organism in the picture is NOT an example of a decomposer?

- A. Bacteria
- B. Fungi
- C. **Plant**
- D. Worm

**FOOD, LAND, AND PEOPLE  
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Answer Key**

Use the diagram below for questions 2 and 3.

2. SC.G.1.2.1



Which combination of parts is the most helpful in the decomposition process?

- A. Minerals, air, water
- B. Minerals, organic matter, air
- C. **Organic matter, air, water**
- D. Organic matter, minerals, water

3. SC.G.1.2.1, SC.G.1.2.4

Although many things are necessary for decomposition to occur, there is one part that must be present for decomposing organisms to function properly. Which part of the circle graph must be present?

- A. **Air**
- B. Minerals
- C. Organic matter
- D. Water

**FOOD, LAND, AND PEOPLE  
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Answer Key**

4. SC.G.1.2.2, SC.G.1.2.6, SC.H.1.2.2 (AA), SC.H.1.2.4 (AA), SC.H.3.2.2 (AA)

The compost experiment in Mrs. Garcia's class contained two garbage bags. Each bag was filled with the following materials:

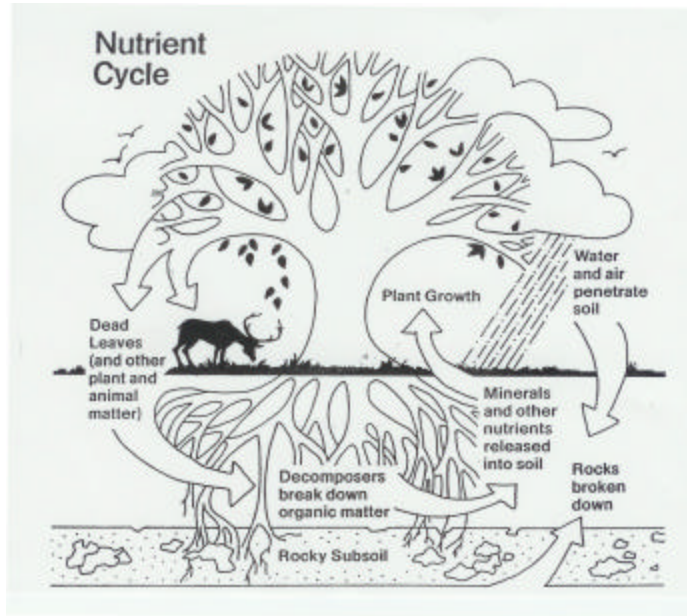
Bag 1: soil, leaves, coffee grinds, apple cores, water

Bag 2: soil, leaves, coffee grinds, apple cores, NO water

The students opened and stirred the bags once a week and made observations.

In the experiment, what is the independent variable?

- A. Air
  - B. Apple core
  - C. Soil
  - D. **Water**
5. SC.G.1.2.4, SC.G.1.2.6, SC.D.1.2.5 (AA)



Why is soil sometimes called "nature's great recycler"?

- A. Rocks break down to make soil.
- B. Soil can be used over and over again.
- C. **Decomposers break down dead organic matter and return nutrients to the soil to be used by plants.**
- D. The nutrient cycle moves soil from the surface to the rocky subsoil where nutrients are found.

**FOOD, LAND, AND PEOPLE  
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Answer Key**

Performance Task: SC.G.1.2.4, SC.G.1.2.6

Your family has just moved to a new housing development that has a community garden. Write a letter to the board of directors of the development persuading them to also make a neighborhood compost pile. The compost pile would allow homeowners to recycle their organic wastes. Give at least 3 reasons why it is important to recycle organic wastes.

**[Correct answers should include at least three of these reasons:**

- **Improve soil**
- **Speed up decomposition process**
- **Return organic matter to the soil**
- **Reduce materials deposited in landfill**
- **Save money on fertilizer]**