



# Fallen Timbers Backyard Activities

## Decomposers!

To decompose means to rot. Decomposers are the last stop on the food chain. Decomposers are very important for any ecosystem. If they weren't around the plants would not get essential nutrients, and dead matter and waste would pile up. Some of the most common decomposers are bacteria, worms, slugs, snails, and fungi, like mushrooms.

## Field Work

### Equipment:

- Jars w/Lids or ziplock bags
- Clipboard/Study Sheet/Pencil
- Spoon or trowel

### Investigate:

1. Find a spot in your yard or greenspace that you can dig or turn over rocks, logs or leaves.
2. When you move a log or pile of leaves, etc; make sure it is placed back in the same position/spot.
3. Use your hands to move things; no kicking. Kicking just destroys.
4. If the log/rotting stuff falls apart (as in it is almost soil) try to mold it back in place the best you can.
5. Use your tools to collect and try to identify decomposers living in the soil. Make sure to put them back where they came from!

