

NAME _____

4-5 Activity

Soils & Webs

One **TEASPOON** of soil can hold between 100 million and 1 billion bacteria and other organisms that we can't see but we can't live without! We need healthy soil for air to breathe, food to eat and much more. All of the organisms (the ones we can and can't see) living in or on the soil are part of the soil food web. These organisms get the energy and nutrition they need to survive by eating each other, waste products from other organisms or organic compounds from plants.

Life in the Soil Food Web

Use the words provided in the box to complete the puzzle and find out how some of the organisms living in and on the soil spend their time!

Bacteria	Mutualists
Decomposers	Photosynthesizers
Fungi	Shredders
Grazers	

ACROSS

6. Use solar energy to produce carbohydrates and oxygen and add organic matter to soil.

DOWN

- 1. Break down organic compounds that are sources of energy and nutrition for other organisms.
- 2. Some can break down pesticides and pollutants in soil, making it healthier.
- 3. Release nitrogen while eating fungi and bacteria.
- 4. Two organisms living in a relationship that benefits both.
- 5. Joins soil particles together which helps increase water infiltration.
- 7. Improve soil structure by; consuming plant material, producing organic waste and burrowing.