

Possible Answers to the Focus Questions

1. *Euglena* can be classified as a producer because it can produce its own food in the presence of sunlight. *Euglena* can be classified as a consumer because it eats other organisms in the absence of sunlight.
2. If there were no decomposing bacteria and fungi then the remains of thousands of years of plants and animals would pile up around us because they are not able to break down by themselves. Because there were no decomposers to break down materials into the basic components, there would not be any plants because the plants would have used up all the minerals and elements in the soil. If there were no plants, there would be nothing for the animals to eat so they would also die.
3. Answers will vary depending on the biome and ecosystem in which you live. Students should provide at least two examples of producers, herbivores, carnivores, omnivores, and decomposers.