

Vocabulary



decomposer an organism that gets energy by feeding on dead materials and wastes

Decomposers use sugars from dead material to get energy. They give off carbon dioxide in the process.

fungus an organism that feeds on dead organisms or wastes, cannot move on its own, and reproduces with spores

The plural of *fungus* is *fungi*. Fungi are made of hyphae, long thread-like structures that grow into the food material.

microorganism an organism that cannot be seen without the aid of a microscope
Bacteria and some fungi are microorganisms.

yeast a single-celled fungus. Yeast remains dormant when it is dry

It begins to grow in a warm, moist environment. Yeast uses sugar for food.