

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS

Read the text and then answer the questions.

Have you ever wondered about where we get our food? All living things require energy to survive. They receive that energy from food. All living things depend on one another for food. Some living things are *producers*. Producers are living things that make their own food; they do not need to find food. Flowers, trees, and other plants are producers. They get energy from sunlight and use that energy to make their own food. Producers are extremely important. They are the only living things that can create their own food. All other living things depend on them for nourishment. That is why we must take good care of our forests, grasslands, and plants; without them, we could not survive.

1. What is this text about?

- (A) sunlight
- (B) habitats
- (C) the environment
- (D) producers

2. How do flowers, trees, and other plants make their food?

- (A) They get their food from other plants.
- (B) They must find food.
- (C) They use energy from sunlight.
- (D) They use air to make food.

3. Which word is defined as a living thing that makes its own food?

- (A) energy
- (B) a producer
- (C) sunlight
- (D) a living thing

4. Which is a synonym for *depend*?

- (A) rely
- (B) avoid
- (C) bake
- (D) make

5. Which word describes the tone of this text?

- (A) factual
- (B) angry
- (C) funny
- (D) persuasive

SCORE

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

___ / 5

Total

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1. (Y) (N)

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3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

___ / 5

Total

Most living things cannot make their own food; they have to forage for food instead. Living things that must find food are called *consumers*. *Consume* is another word for *eat*. Some consumers eat only plants—they are called *herbivores*. Deer are herbivores, and so are cows and horses. Other consumers eat only animals—they are called *carnivores*. Lions are carnivores, and so are sharks, eagles, and hawks. Eagles and hawks eat snakes and insects. They also eat small animals. Some consumers eat plants and animals. They are called *omnivores*. Many people are omnivores because they eat meat as well as fruits and vegetables. Humans are not the only omnivores. Bears are omnivores, too. So are apes and monkeys.

1. What is the text about?

- (A) consumers
 (B) apes
 (C) deer
 (D) plants

2. What does a *carnivore* eat?

- (A) both meat and plants
 (B) only plants
 (C) only meat
 (D) nothing

3. Which word has the same root word as *consumers*?

- (A) summers
 (B) consumption
 (C) consent
 (D) resume

4. What is a living thing that eats only plants called?

- (A) an eagle
 (B) an omnivore
 (C) a carnivore
 (D) a herbivore

5. Which phrase compares two objects?

- (A) *not the only*
 (B) *and so are*
 (C) *cannot make*
 (D) *another word*

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DIRECTIONS

Read the text and then answer the questions.

Every living thing dies. After a living thing dies, what happens to it? It *decomposes*, or breaks down. But it cannot do that alone. We need decomposers to break down living things after they die. *Decomposers* break down dead material and use some of it for food. They turn the rest of the dead material into nutrients. Then, those nutrients become part of the soil. That is how trees, flowers, and other plants get nutrients. Flies are decomposers; so are worms and many kinds of insects. Bacteria are decomposers, too, and so are fungi. All of them break down dead material and turn it into nutrients that trees, flowers, and other plants can use. Decomposers such as flies and worms are not very big. But they are very important. Just imagine what the world would be like without them!

SCORE

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

___ / 5

Total

1. What is the topic of the text?

- (A) nutrients
 (B) decomposers
 (C) bacteria
 (D) flowers

2. Why do we need decomposers?

- (A) They break down dead material and make nutrients.
 (B) They are smaller than other living things.
 (C) They eat insects.
 (D) They are much larger than other living things.

3. How many predicates are in the following sentence: *Decomposers break down dead material and use some of it for food.*

- (A) three
 (B) one
 (C) none
 (D) two

4. Which word means *to break down*?

- (A) bacteria
 (B) nutrient
 (C) decompose
 (D) imagine

5. Which word is plural?

- (A) decomposes
 (B) dies
 (C) fungi
 (D) happens

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

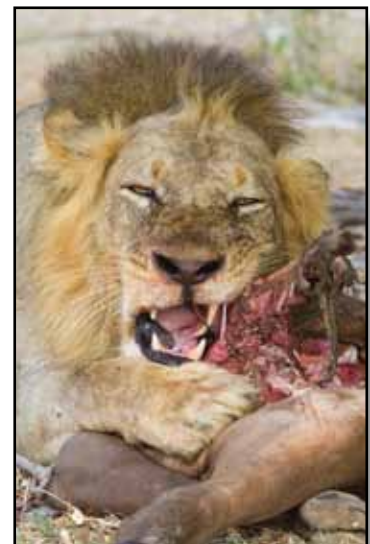
What do you have in common with an oak tree? Humans and oak trees are both important parts of the food web. Every living thing is part of this web of life, and every living thing depends on other living things in the web. Producers, consumers, and decomposers work together. They need each other.

Producers need decomposers. For example, a tree is a producer. A worm is a decomposer. When worms break down dead material, they create nutrients. They add those nutrients to the soil. The tree then uses the nutrients in that soil to create food. Producers also need consumers. When a consumer such as a lion dies, it leaves dead material behind. That dead material becomes nutrients that trees use.

Consumers need producers. Zebras are consumers. Plants are producers. Zebras eat plants. Lions are consumers, too. They eat zebras. Without the plants, there would be no zebras, so lions need plants, too. Consumers also need decomposers. Worms and insects are decomposers. Without worms and insects, there would be no nutrients in the soil. Trees and other plants could not grow, so zebras would have nothing to eat. Without zebras and other smaller animals, lions could not eat.

Decomposers need producers and consumers. Decomposers need dead material that they can use for food. They get that dead material from producers and consumers that have died. When a tree or a zebra dies, decomposers such as worms use that dead material. They use some of it for food. They turn the rest into nutrients.

If you took away all of the decomposers, there would be no nutrients. So there would be no producers. That would mean that consumers would have nothing to eat. If you took away all of the producers, there would not be food for the consumers to eat. And if you took away all the consumers, there would not be dead material to make nutrients. Every part of the food web is important.



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DIRECTIONS

Read "We Are All Connected" and then answer the questions.

1. Which happens first?

- (A) The zebra eats the plant.
- (B) The zebra dies.
- (C) A plant grows.
- (D) A worm decomposes the zebra.

2. This text is an example of which text structure?

- (A) chronological order
- (B) argument and support
- (C) cause-and-effect
- (D) compare and contrast

3. Which purpose for reading is most appropriate for this text?

- (A) I want to know why spiders weave webs.
- (B) I want to know how living things are connected and work together.
- (C) I want to learn how zebras and lions are similar and different.
- (D) I want to know why trees are green.

4. Which statement is true?

- (A) Humans are nutrients.
- (B) Humans are decomposers.
- (C) Humans are producers.
- (D) Humans are consumers.

5. Which would a decomposer likely want to eat?

- (A) a dead tree
- (B) a living flower
- (C) a rock
- (D) a piece of paper

6. Imagine that there were no zebras. What do you think would happen?

- (A) There would be more lions.
- (B) There would not be as many lions.
- (C) There would be more zebras.
- (D) There would be no more trees.

7. What happens without decomposers?

- (A) dead material is broken down
- (B) lions eat trees
- (C) more trees grow
- (D) trees cannot grow

8. Which is true about producers?

- (A) They make their own food.
- (B) They break down material into nutrients.
- (C) They eat consumers.
- (D) They are not important.

SCORE

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

6. (Y) (N)

7. (Y) (N)

8. (Y) (N)

___ / 8

Total

NAME: _____ **DATE:** _____

DIRECTIONS

Reread the text “We Are All Connected.” Then, read the prompt and respond on the lines below.

SCORE

___ / 4

How are we all connected? Write about how producers, consumers, and decomposers are connected.
