



## Banana Slug Island

### Video #332

#### Developed for Grades: 2nd - 5th

The WOW videos have been developed to inspire students to learn more about **NGSS Life Science and/or Earth Science Disciplinary Core Ideas**. These could include:

- Plants and animals (including humans) can change their environment.
- Living things need water, air, and resources from the land.
- Humans use natural resources for everything they do.
- All organisms have internal and external structures that serve various functions in growth, survival, behavior and reproduction.
- Importance of ecosystems and habitats
- Cross cutting concepts like patterns, cause and effect, etc.

The WOW videos and their support documents can also be used with **English Language Arts**. Here are some ideas:

1. Select a few questions from the Know-It-All section and have students write their answers.
2. Have students write a story related to the topic. They could even add illustrations. For some grades students could read their stories and/or video tape their readings to share.
3. Students could write a poem, a play, or a song based on something in the video that created an emotional response for them.
4. Key words in the video can be used in creative writing assignments.
5. Older students could explore the difference in learning from video as opposed to a book. What are the advantages and disadvantages?

## Answer Key for Know-It-All

### 1. What does “decomposition” mean?

- Decomposition is the process of breaking down dead plants and animals into nutrients and soil.

### 2. What do the three letters of the F-B-I stand for?

- Organisms that are decomposers include Fungi, Bacteria, and Invertebrates (F,B,I), and even sometimes Humans (when we digest food or crumble up a dry leaf.)

### 3. Where are some good places to look for decomposers?

- Decomposers can be found in and around dead plants and animals. Some good places to look for decomposers are under logs, moist environments, and any place where dead plant matter can be found (like the garden compost).

### 4. What are some decomposers you might find in your garden?

- Decomposers you can find in the garden are worms, snails, slugs, roly-polys (pillbugs), flies, ants, mushrooms, mold, etc.

### 5. What are some decomposers in the wild?

- Decomposers you can find in the wild include all of the above, plus banana slugs, termites, some beetles, millipedes, mushrooms, moss, lichen, bacteria that you can't see, mold, etc.

### 6. How do you think decomposition can help the ecosystem?

- Decomposition enables the ecosystem to return nutrients back to the ground. It's a cycle that happens over and over again, or to put it a different way, it's re-cycling! Get it? Without decomposition, very little life could survive on planet Earth. Thank you, decomposers!
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