



## NATURE AT HOME

We hope to inspire kids of all ages to learn about the natural world and discover new connections to nature.



### Nature's Recyclers: The Decomposers

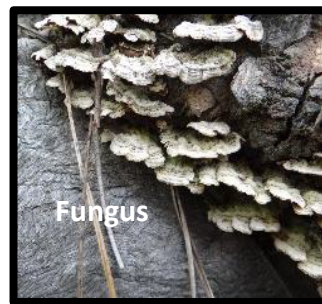
View the video at [DishmanHills.org/Nature-At-Home](http://DishmanHills.org/Nature-At-Home)

**Mother Nature** isn't finished with a tree when it dies. If a dead tree is still standing it is called a snag. When it ends up on the forest floor it is called a deadfall. The organisms that we call decomposers have already been at work for a very long time.



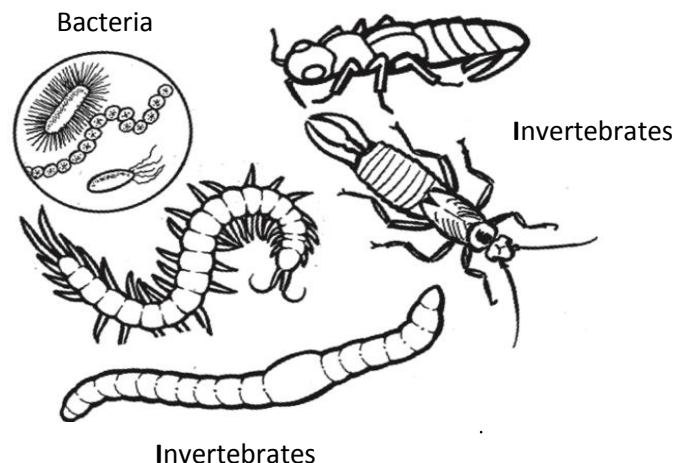
#### The Decomposers

**Fungi, Bacteria and Invertebrates**, are sometimes referred to as the FBI. A wide variety of these organisms are involved in the long, slow process of breaking down organic matter into reusable nutrients that can be used to create new life.



How long does this process take?  
Some say that it takes a tree as long to decompose as it did to live.

**Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose.** Nothing is wasted in the natural world. Look for signs of "FBI" next time you go into nature.



Share what you discover at  
[Education@DishmanHills.org](mailto:Education@DishmanHills.org)