

Name _____

What Role Do Ants Play in the Ecosystem?

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Aerating the soil is important because it helps plant roots get the air and water they need to grow. Without it, plants might not grow as strong or healthy.
2. By controlling pests, ants protect crops and gardens, reducing the need for harmful pesticides and helping farmers grow more food.
3. Ants are part of the food chain because they eat organic materials and are also a food source for many animals. This balance keeps ecosystems healthy.
4. (Example Response) If ants disappeared, the ecosystem would suffer because plants might not grow as well, pests could overrun crops, and animals that eat ants would lose a major food source.

