

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Fungi Unveiled: Exploring Their Diverse Habitats

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Fungi contribute to nutrient cycling in aquatic environments by breaking down organic matter, releasing nutrients that can be used by other organisms, and helping maintain water quality.
2. Fungi are important in breaking down decaying organic matter in ecosystems because they help recycle nutrients back into the soil, making them available for other organisms to use, and facilitate the decomposition process, which helps clean up dead plant and animal material.
3. The presence of fungi in human-made habitats can impact human health by causing allergies, respiratory issues, or other health problems, especially if indoor air quality is poor or if indoor fungi produce toxins.
4. Fungi interact with other organisms in their natural habitats by forming symbiotic relationships with plants, animals, or other fungi, competing for resources, and serving as food sources for other organisms.

