

Name _____

Unraveling the Mystery of Heterotrophs: Nature's Consumers

Short Answer Key

1. Heterotrophs are organisms that cannot produce their own food and rely on consuming other organisms for energy and nutrients.
2. Decomposer, detritivore, herbivore, carnivore, omnivore (any one is acceptable).
3. Decomposers break down dead organic matter and recycle nutrients in ecosystems.
4. Detritivores contribute to the decomposition process by fragmenting organic material into smaller pieces, making it more accessible to decomposers.
5. Heterotrophs are important for maintaining the balance of ecosystems by regulating populations and promoting biodiversity.

