

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Role of Termites in the Ecosystem

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Termites help decompose dead plant material, which enriches the soil with nutrients, allowing plants to grow healthier and stronger.
2. If termites disappeared, animals that eat them, such as birds and lizards, might struggle to survive due to a lack of food.
3. Like earthworms, termites improve soil structure by creating tunnels, which help air and water reach plant roots. Both are essential for healthy soil.
4. Understanding termites' positive role helps us appreciate their importance in maintaining balanced ecosystems and highlights the need to protect their habitats.

