

Decay

Microorganisms, (decomposers) such as bacteria and fungi, break down waste and dead bodies. The decay process releases substances needed by plants for growth. Microorganisms digest materials faster in conditions that are warm, moist and have plenty of oxygen. They are used in sewage works and compost heaps.

The Carbon Cycle

The constant recycling of carbon material is called the carbon cycle.

- 1) CO_2 is removed from the atmosphere by green plants for photosynthesis. Some CO_2 is returned by plants during respiration.
- 2) the carbon obtained by photosynthesis is used by plants to make carbohydrates, fats and proteins. The plants are eaten by animals, some of the carbon becomes fats and proteins in the animals.
and excrete.
- 3) Animals respire releasing CO_2 into the atmosphere.
- 4) Plants and animals die, other animals and microorganisms feed on their bodies causing them to break down.
- 5) ~~But~~ These plants / animals either decay or are burnt which releases CO_2 .