



Down To the Ground

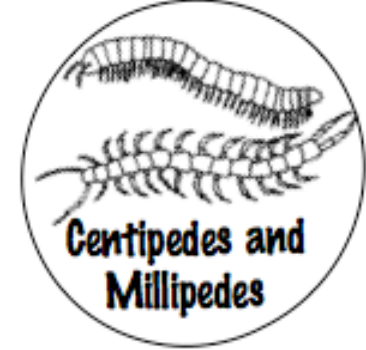
With Decomposers



Flies lay their eggs in dead plants and animals. When the larvae hatch they begin to eat the dead plant or animal, as they eat it they break it down, creating soil.



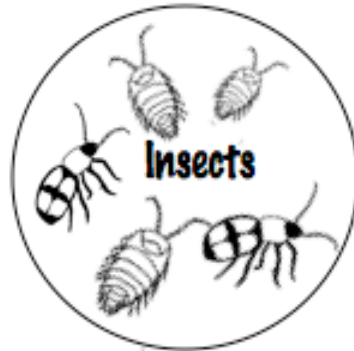
Many birds search logs for insects to eat. In Hawai'i the Elepaio is a native bird that searches for insects in the bark of trees. As it searches, it breaks apart pieces of the log decomposing it.



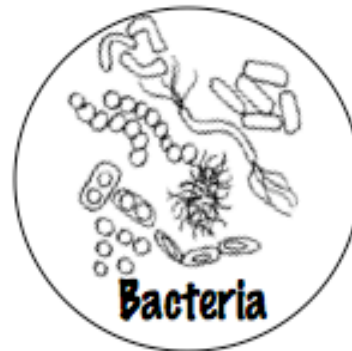
Centipedes eat insects and Millipedes eat plant matter. Both live in the soil or under stones and logs. These invertebrates break down insect and plant matter



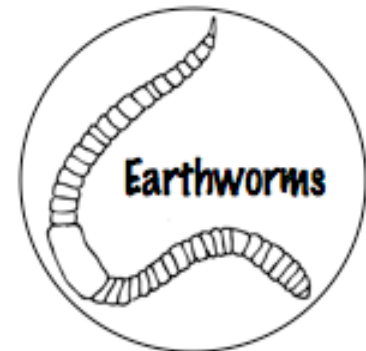
Mushrooms are great decomposers. They extract nutrients for decaying material, speeding up the decomposition process. Mushrooms grow on logs, other plants, and in the ground.



Some insects live under the bark of trees. These insects eat the bark of the trees, other plant material, and dead animals, breaking them down, and depositing it, creating soil.



Bacteria feed on dead plant and animal material. As they eat these dead plants and animals it breaks them down, creating soil.



This burrowing worm lives in the soil. It help decomposition by eating dead organic matter such as leaves, fruits, and other organisms, then deposits it, creating soil.