



# Teacher Guide

Our resource has been created for ease of use by both **TEACHERS** and **STUDENTS** alike.

## Introduction

**T**his resource provides ready-to-use information and activities for remedial students in grades five to eight. Written to grade and using simplified language and vocabulary, science concepts are presented in a way that makes them more accessible to students and easier to understand. Comprised of reading passages, student activities and overhead transparencies, our resource can be used effectively for whole-class, small group and independent work.



**Hands-on Activities** are included to further develop students' thinking skills and understanding of the concepts. The **Assessment Rubric** (page 4) is a useful tool for evaluating students' responses to many of the activities in our resource. The **Comprehension Quiz** (page 48) can be used for either a follow-up review or assessment at the completion of the unit.

## PICTURE CUES

This resource contains three main types of pages, each with a different purpose and use. A **Picture Cue** at the top of each page shows, at a glance, what the page is for.

## How Is Our Resource Organized?

### STUDENT HANDOUTS

**Reading Passages and Activities** (in the form of reproducible worksheets) make up the majority of our resource. The reading passages present important grade-appropriate information and concepts related to the topic. Embedded in each passage are one or more questions that ensure students understand what they have read.

For each reading passage there are **BEFORE YOU READ** activities and **AFTER YOU READ** activities.

- The **BEFORE YOU READ** activities prepare students for reading by setting a purpose for reading. They stimulate background knowledge and experience, and guide students to make connections between what they know and what they will learn. Important concepts and vocabulary are also presented.
- The **AFTER YOU READ** activities check students' comprehension of the concepts presented in the reading passage and extend their learning. Students are asked to give thoughtful consideration of the reading passage through creative and evaluative short-answer questions, research, and extension activities.

### Teacher Guide

- Information and tools for the teacher

### Student Handout

- Reproducible worksheets and activities

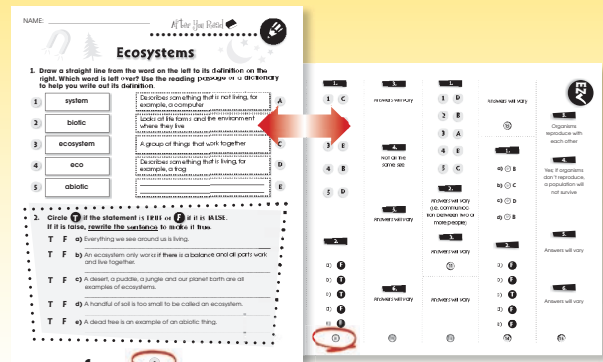


### Easy Marking™ Answer Key

- Answers for student activities

## EASY MARKING™ ANSWER KEY

Marking students' worksheets is fast and easy with this **Answer Key**. Answers are listed in columns – just line up the column with its corresponding worksheet, as shown, and see how every question matches up with its answer!



Every question matches up with its answer!

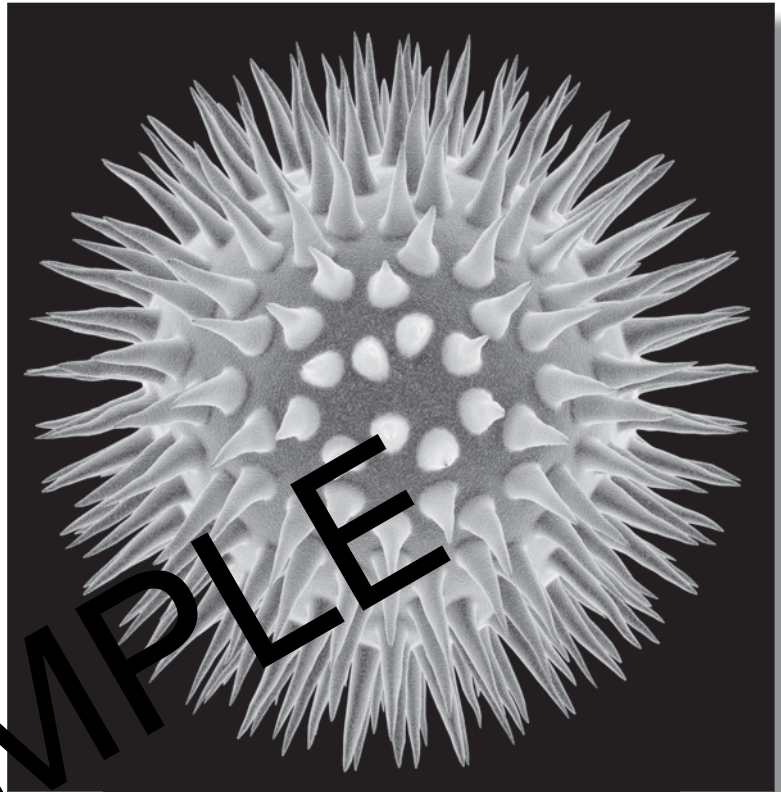


# Microorganisms

## What Is a Microorganism?

**I** magine something that is so small that you can not see it with your own eyes. Have you ever used a **microscope** in science class to look at something very, very small? Well, you would need to use a microscope if you wanted to look at a microorganism. A **microorganism** is any organism that needs to be magnified to be seen.

Microorganisms are incredibly small but are very important on our Earth. They have a job to do. They are so important that without them, life on Earth would not exist. They recycle dead matter so that it can be reused in the environment.



SAMPLE



How do you think bread gets so fluffy and full of air?

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Microorganisms include small organisms such as **bacteria**, **fungi**, and **viruses**. Many microorganisms are useful and some are harmful. Fortunately, most microorganisms are harmless. Humans use microorganisms in our lives every day, but we might not even realize it. For example, fungi are used by doctors to help people feel better. They are also used in making some foods, like cheese and yogurt. Some microorganisms are harmful though. They can cause infections. An infection is caused by a harmful microorganism that is passed from one person to another. Have you ever had a cold because someone else in your class had a cold too? You can see that bacteria can be passed on very easily. It is important to take care of yourself so that you avoid these harmful microorganisms!



# Crossword Puzzle!



## Across

1. group of things that live and work together in an environment
4. something that is not living
5. a microorganism that only has one cell
7. to use something again
8. used to look at something that is too small to see with eyes
10. when water turns from a vapor into a liquid
13. an organism that needs to be magnified to be seen

**Word List:** abiotic, bacteria, biotic, collection, condensation, consumer, decomposer, ecosystem, energy, evaporation, food web, microorganism, microscope, population, recycle, sugar, virus, water cycle

The crossword puzzle grid consists of 15 numbered starting points for words. The grid is partially filled with black squares to indicate non-letter positions. The numbers are: 1 (Across), 2 (Across), 3 (Across), 4 (Across), 5 (Across), 6 (Across), 7 (Across), 8 (Across), 10 (Across), 11 (Across), 12 (Across), 13 (Across), 14 (Down), and 15 (Down).

## Down

1. food gives us this so that we can live a healthy life
2. tastes sweet and plants use it to make food
3. when water turns into vapor or steam
5. something that is living
6. an organism that depends on others for food
8. the path of water going around and around on Earth
9. when you gather something in one place
11. group of similar individuals living in the same area
12. organism that breaks down materials in dead organisms
14. something contagious that makes you feel unwell
15. a diagram that shows many food chains



# Producers, Consumers & Decomposers



Sun



Producer



Consumer



SAMPLE



Decomposer



Soil