

I am so tiny that you can't even see me, but I am everywhere. I am a first-level consumer because I eat organic residue, making these tough materials available as nutrients for plants. I am what gives soil its 'earthy' aroma.

I am a fungus. I am related to mushrooms. I am a first-level consumer because I eat organic residue. You might see me in your home on old food or in your compost pile.

I am a mollusk and creep around on my muscular belly. I carry on my back a spirally curved shell. I will show up in your compost pile from time to time to munch on organic residue, making me a first-level consumer.

I have muscular discs on my underside that are adapted for creeping and crawling. I will make an appearance from time to time in your compost pile to eat organic residue, making me a first-level consumer.

Bacteria



Mold



Snail



Slug



I have so many legs you would have a hard time counting them. I am very shy and I roll up into a ball to avoid danger. I am a vegetarian and eat organic residue, making me a first-level consumer.

I have ten pairs of legs. That makes me an isopod, like my cousin the roly poly. I eat organic residue, making me a first-level consumer. I breathe with gills so I must live in a damp place.

I am a single-celled animal. I am aquatic. I am a second-level consumer because I eat bacteria and mold. I release many of the nutrients stored in them. Earthworms depend on me as a primary food source.

I am a tiny animal that is less than 1/500th of an inch! I feed on bacteria and mold, making me a second-level consumer. They have more nutrients than I need, so I release the excess nutrients into the soil for plants.

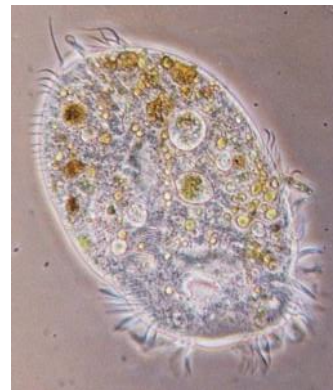
Millipede



Sow Bug



Protozoa



Nematode



I am a tiny white insect less than 1/16th inch long. I have a little spring that helps me jump high into the air. I eat mold, making me a second-level consumer.

I am tiny. It would take 25 of me to cover an inch-long line. My body is round and fat so it's hard to see my eight legs. I eat mold, making me a second-level consumer.

I move quickly on my many legs. I have up to 137 segments with a pair of legs on each! I am a fierce hunter. I love to eat mites, making me a third-level consumer. I use my pair of poison claws to keep my prey from getting away.

I am an insect with shiny, black, tough wings. I am about ½ inch long. I am a third-level consumer because I am a predator, eating mites and other creatures. I live beneath stones, boards, and other moist places.

Springtail



Non-Predatory Mite



Centipede



Rove Beetle



I am an insect with six legs. I help to decompose by breaking materials into smaller particles and moving soil around. I feed on mold, springtails, and mites, making me a third-level consumer.

I do not have legs or eyes. I sense light and I breathe through my skin. I move by taking soil into my mouth and moving it through me and out the end. I extract nutrients from decaying organisms, making me a first-level consumer.

I am a teeny, tiny animal that you would need a microscope to see. I live in water droplets in the soil. I use a sticky patch on my single foot to move around. I eat mold and bacteria, making me a second-level consumer.

I am a tiny creature, the size of a pin head! I am fast-moving. Unlike other kinds of mites, I eat insects and nematodes. This makes me a third-level consumer.

Ant



Earthworm



Rotifera



Predatory Mite



The gardeners did not know that insects are an important part of the food web and decided to spray insecticide! If you are a third-level consumer, you have been wiped out.

The gardeners did not know that insects are an important part of the food web and decided to spray insecticide! If you are a third-level consumer, you have been wiped out.

I have ten pairs of legs. That makes me an isopod, like my cousin the roly poly. I eat organic residue, making me a first-level consumer. I breathe with gills so I must live in a damp place.

I do not have legs or eyes. I sense light and I breathe through my skin. I move by taking soil into my mouth and moving it through me and out the end. I extract nutrients from decaying organisms, making me a first-level consumer.

Insecticide



Insecticide



Sow Bug



Earthworm

