

B1 - Biomass, Food Chains and Decay

1. All the energy grass absorbs from the Sun is eventually lost to the surroundings. In what form is this energy lost?

Heat from respiration.

2. Give three reasons why so little of the energy in the trees is passed on to the carnivores.

Lost as heat (and to keep the body warm), lost in movement, lost in faeces and urine, lost in respiration.

3. Give three ways in which energy released in respiration is used.

Maintain body temperature, heartbeat, movement.

4. How is energy stored in new plants?

Sugar, carbohydrates, proteins, fats.

5. Many of the animals which form part of our diet are herbivores rather than carnivores. Explain why as fully as you can.

Plants at the start of all food chains so the food chain is shorter and less energy is lost.

6. Which living things cause decay?

Microorganisms, bacteria, fungi, maggots, worms.

7. Explain why a compost heap contains soil as well as dead plant material.

Soil contains the microbes needed to decay the dead plant material.

8. Explain why a compost heap contains holes in the sides.

To let in oxygen for aerobic respiration of microorganisms; to let excess heat escape.

9. What are the four things needed for decay?

Warmth, moisture, oxygen, microorganisms

10. Why do gardeners put compost onto soil around plants?

Compost contains minerals.

11. Why are fungi called decomposers?

They break down dead material.