

Lesson Thirteen

Microorganisms—Decay and Decomposition

- Objective 2:** Demonstrate the skills needed to plan and conduct an experiment to determine a microorganism’s requirements in a specific environment.
- Indicator a:** Formulate a question about microorganisms.
- Indicator b:** Develop a hypothesis for a questions about microorganism based on observations and prior knowledge.
- Indicator c:** Plan and carry out an investigation on microorganism.
- Indicator d:** Display results in an appropriate format (e.g., graphs, tables, diagrams).
- Indicator e:** Prepare a written summary or conclusion to describe the result in terms of the hypothesis for the investigation on microorganism.
- Objective 3:** Identify positive and negative effects of microorganisms and how science has developed positive uses for some microorganisms and overcome the negative effects of others.
- Indicator e:** Observe and report on microorganisms’ harmful effects on food (e.g., causes fruits and vegetables to rot, destroys food-bearing plants, makes milk sour).

Procedure

1. Go to *Investigation Five, Good Guys or Bad Guys* (Taken from the State Science Teacher Resource Book, page 12.2.23)
 - a. Read the background information to the students, or copy it off for them to read on page 12.2.24.
 - b. Do the “Invitation to Learn” on page 12.2.24.
2. Go to Activity One, “Decay and Decomposition” (Taken from the State Science Teacher Resource Book, page 12.2.24.)
 - a. Follow the Instructional Procedures for Activity One, page 12.2.24.
 - b. Have the students answer the questions either individually, as a group, or as a class that are found at the end on page 12.2.25.