

Plastic Impacts: Decomposers

Read this article, then answer Questions 1 and 2:

<https://biologydictionary.net/decomposers-in-the-ocean/>

This resource contains more information about decomposers in the ocean. (Note that decomposers may also be called *scavengers* or *detritivores*.)

1. List six examples of decomposers from the article. If you are not sure about the definition of some of the words, find their definitions and write those as well.

2. Decomposers tend to live on the ocean floor. How could this affect their relationship to plastics?

Read this article, then answer Questions 3-5 below:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/02/deep-sea-creatures-mariana-trench-eat-plastic/?ngscourse>

3. Were you surprised to learn that there are plastics in the deepest parts of the ocean? Why or why not?

4. According to this study, where did the plastic fibers in the amphipods ultimately come from?

5. Summarize what the scientists said about the impact of plastics in amphipods and on the ocean floor in general.

Complete this side when you return to your project group.

Trophic Level	Example Organisms	Ingestion Impacts	Entanglement Impacts
Primary Consumers			
Secondary and Tertiary Consumers			
Apex Predators			

Decomposers