



Welcome to Delightful Decomposers! In this class packet you'll learn all about nature's cleanup crew. Activities will include nature exploration, crafts, and poetry. If you pick up this packet in-person at the LLNF at 110 Eel Point Rd, then all materials will be provided in the packet. **Everything in the bag is yours to keep, please do not return anything to the pick-up box.**

You can also download this packet from our website and follow along with the instructions, even if you are not on Nantucket, but you'll need to provide your own materials.

Activities included:

- Delightful Decomposers Scavenger Hunt
- Compost Stew
- Guess that Decomposer
- (De)Composition of Poetry



# Delightful Decomposers Scavenger Hunt

## Materials:

- Scavenger Hunt Card
- Colored pencil or other writing implement

## Instructions:

On the next page is a scavenger hunt full of decomposers. There are many different types of species that help break down dead plant and animal remain into soil. All of these can be found on our property but many can also be found elsewhere if you downloaded the packet and are following along from home. Walk on the LLNF trail or somewhere else in nature, try to find these species, and learn more about the process of decomposition!



Find the piece of nature  
below...or find a clue!

**Delightful Decomposers  
Edition!**



Carrion  
Beetle \_\_\_\_\_



Pillbug \_\_\_\_\_



Mushroom  
\_\_\_\_\_



Turkey Vulture  
\_\_\_\_\_



Millipede \_\_\_\_\_

# Compost Stew

## Materials:

- Solo cup (or other container)
- Pipe cleaner

## Instructions:

Create a delicious meal for an earthworm! While walking the LLNF trails or anywhere else in nature, collect organic matter and put it in the solo cup. Organic material is anything that was alive and is now in or on the soil, like leaves. If it can rot or break down, then it is biodegradable, also known as compost. Once you are happy with the amount of food you collected, bend the pipe cleaner to make it look like a worm and place it in the cup. Worms are decomposers and help break organic material down.



## Guess that Decomposer

Materials:

- Pencil or other writing implement

Instructions:

Match each description or clue with the decomposer that it is associated with. Draw a line with your pencil between the text and the name. Activity can be found on the following page, answers included.



# Guess that Decomposer

1) Sometimes used for fishing

Mushroom

2) Humans like to eat these

Turkey Vulture

3) Rumored to have 100 legs

Earthworm

4) Has a bald, red head

Bacteria

5) Too small to see

Centipede

## (De)Composition of Poetry

Example:

*Oh mushroom, you are sublime;  
Decomposing all the time;  
Mycelium deep into the ground;  
Breaking down soil all around;  
Special enzymes to recycle;  
Begin anew another cycle;  
Nutrients you create;  
And for that let's celebrate!*



Instructions:

Using the knowledge that you have learned so far about decomposers, as well as the example above, create your own poem! It could focus on one type of decomposer or several. Use the space below to write.