

## Breaking it Down! (PDF 2)

An organism that breaks down materials from the dead obtains energy from the materials. The mini recycling plans are amazing organisms. Lets see a few.

### **Fungi**



**Fungi** like to be in a moist and slightly acidic environment; they can grow with or without light or oxygen. Sometimes, **fungi** do not need a partner to reproduce and the energy from dead/decaying matter is all they need to make more fungi!

**Like** animals, fungi are heterotrophs: they use complex organic compounds as a source of carbon, rather than fix carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as do some bacteria and most plants. In addition, fungi do not fix nitrogen from the atmosphere. Like animals, they must obtain it from their diet. **Unlike** most animals, which ingest food and then digest it internally in specialized organs, fungi perform these steps in the reverse order: digestion precedes ingestion.

