

Name

Glossary for Micro-organisms



bacteria		Tiny living thing, some of which are harmful germs, others of which are useful because they help dead materials to decay.
decay		What happens when dead plants and animals rot away.
decompose		To rot or decay
fungus		A group of simple organisms that includes mushrooms. Toadstools, yeasts and moulds.
germ		Another word for micro-organism, especially one causing disease.
humus		The decayed plant and animal material in the soil.
micro-organism/ microbe		A very small living thing that can be seen only with a microscope. They include bacteria, viruses and fungi.
virus		A tiny living thing, smaller than a bacterium.