

FBI: Fungus. Bacteria. Invertebrates.

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to investigate local forest communities for signs of rogue FBI agents. If you determine they're a decomposer, read them their rights and call in backup if you need help identifying.

1. Read 'em their rights!

You have the right to decompose. You have the right to eat and return nutrients to the soil. You have the right to survive in your habitat. You have the right to interact with other organisms. If you refuse to accept these rights, you may be arrested and on suspicion of being a rogue FBI agent.

2. Sketch and describe suspects.

<u>FUNGUS</u>	<u>BACTERIA</u>	<u>INVERTEBRATES</u>

Vocabulary:

Bacteria – single celled organisms that are microscopic (we can smell them!)

Carnivore – eats animals

Decomposer – breaks down plants and animals into soil to recycle nutrients

Detritivore – creatures that eat dead parts of plants and animals

Ecology – the study of relationships between groups of living things and their environment

Fungus – mushroom

Herbivore – eats plants

Invertebrate – worms, slugs beetles, millipedes, ants, snails... things without a backbone

Lichen – decomposer that is a symbiotic relationship between fungus and algae

Niche – job or role that a plant or animal has in the environment

Omnivore – eats both plants and animals

Producer – takes the sun's energy and makes sugar through the process of photosynthesis

Scavenger – eats what other animals have left behind