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Assessment Rubric

Ecosystems

Student's Name: _____ Assignment: _____ Level: _____

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Understanding Concepts	Demonstrates a limited understanding of concepts. Needs teacher intervention.	Demonstrates a basic understanding of concepts. Requires little teacher intervention.	Demonstrates a good understanding of concepts. Requires no teacher intervention.	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of concepts. Requires no teacher intervention.
Analysis and Application of Key Concepts	Limited application and interpretation in activity responses	Basic application and interpretation in activity responses	Good application and interpretation in activity responses	Strong application and interpretation in activity responses
Creativity and Imagination	Limited creativity and imagination applied in projects and activities	Some creativity and imagination applied in projects and activities	Satisfactory level of creativity and imagination applied in projects and activities	Beyond expected creativity and imagination applied in projects & activities
Application of Own Interests	Limited application of own interests in independent or group environment	Basic application of own interests in independent or group environment	Good application of own interests in independent or group environment	Strong application of own interests in independent or group environment

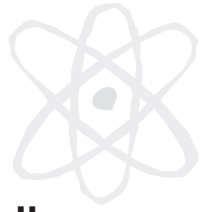
STRENGTHS:

WEAKNESSES:

NEXT STEPS:



The Water Cycle



1. Number the events from 1 to 4 in the order they occur in the WATER CYCLE.

- _____ **a) Condensation:** Water vapor in the air gets cold and turns back into a liquid. Clouds are formed.
- _____ **b) Precipitation:** So much water has condensed that air can not hold it anymore.
- _____ **c) Collection:** Precipitation falls back to Earth through lakes, oceans and through the soil in land.
- _____ **d) Evaporation:** The Sun heats up from lakes, oceans and land. Water is turned into vapor or steam.

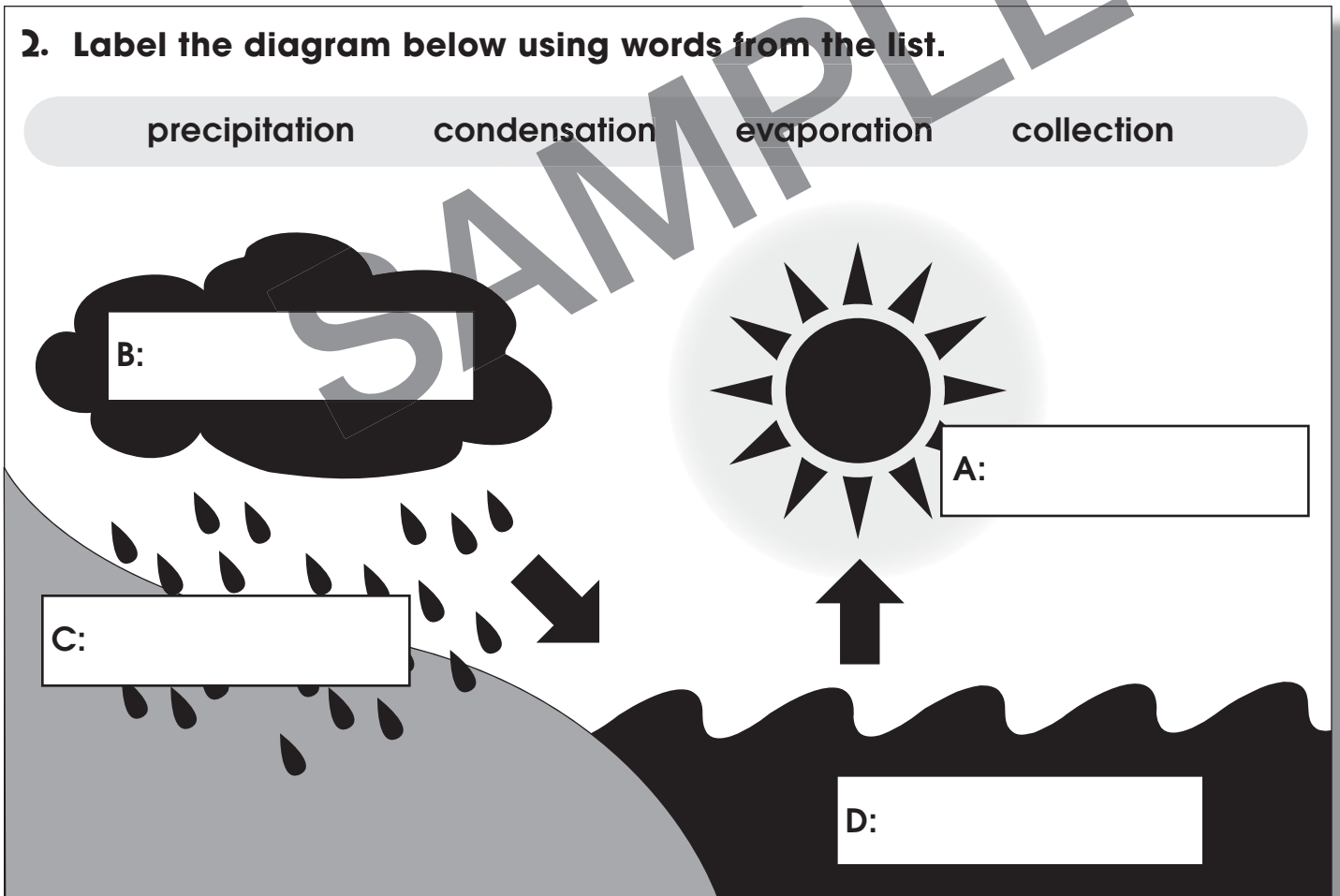
2. Label the diagram below using words from the list.

precipitation

condensation

evaporation

collection



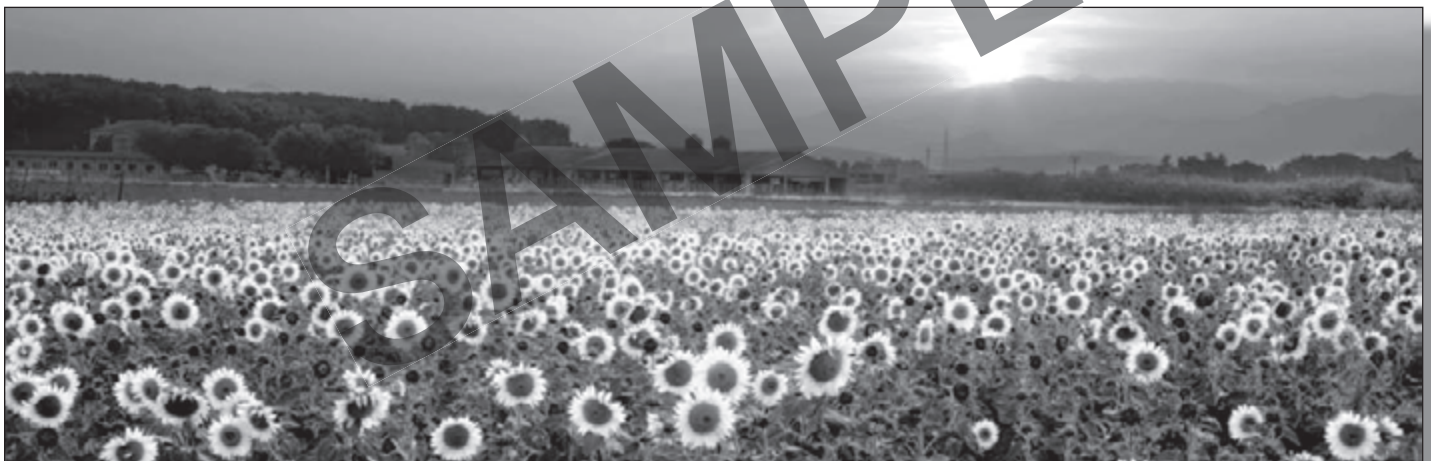


Producers, Consumers & Decomposers

All organisms in an ecosystem get energy from the same place. All energy comes from the Sun. Green plants absorb this energy. This energy is then shared with all parts of an ecosystem. Every organism in an ecosystem gets their energy and food a different way. This divides all organisms into three kinds: **producers, consumers,** and **decomposers.** The difference between these three kinds of organisms is the way they find food and energy. Let us now look at the three different kinds now.



Think about your favorite food. Explain how the Sun played an important role in its growth.



A **producer** is an organism that produces its own food. An example of a producer is a green plant. It takes in energy from the Sun and makes food which is then passed on to **consumers.** A **consumer** is an organism that cannot make its own food. It is called a **consumer** because it depends on others. It gets food by eating other organisms. **Decomposers** play a very important role too. **Decomposers** break down materials in dead organisms. Humans recycle certain things so that we can use them again. **Decomposers** do the same thing. They recycle nutrients from dead organisms and return them to the soil. They can then be used again by **producers.** Imagine that these three kinds of organisms all live in a cycle. They all depend on each other for energy and food. Without each other, they would not survive.

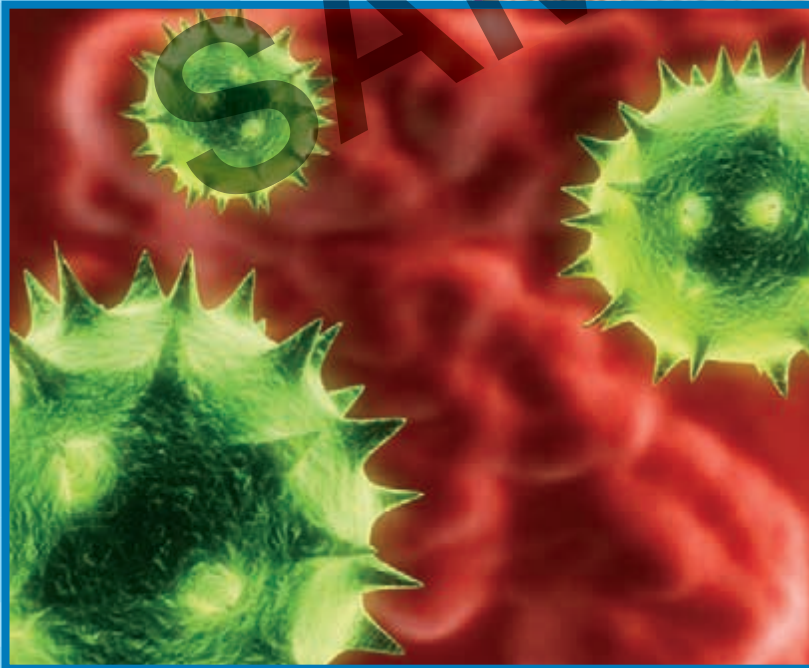
Microorganisms



◀ **Bacteria**
(Salmonella)



Fungi
(Mold) ▶



▶ **Virus**