

## 5.3 Grading the Explanations Tool: How does a fungus get small organic molecules to its cells?

This worksheet has “grading” in the title because at this point, students can be held accountable for correct answers. Level 4 (correct) responses to the questions are in **blue bold italics** below. There are also comments about common Level 2 and Level 3 responses to help you with grading and making decisions about what to emphasize in future lessons.

*Red italics suggest ways to grade student responses by giving them points for correct or partially correct answers. There are 15 points total on this worksheet.*

Carbon TIME Discourse Routine around the Explanations Tool:

1. *Introduction: Students review their Evidence-Based Arguments Tools. Establish the purpose for completing the tool as developing a complete explanation for the unit phenomenon.*
2. *Private thinking and writing: Students complete the Explanations Tool individually.*
3. *Partner or small group work: Students share and compare ideas in pairs/small groups, with the goal of improving their explanations.*
4. *Sharing ideas in whole-class discussion: Class discussions serve to elicit, clarify, and compare explanations from individual students and/or student groups.*
5. *Consensus-seeking discussion accompanied by public writing: Class discussions focus on coming to consensus around a correct, coherent explanation that answers the Three Questions while addressing the 4 steps. We recommend that students revise their explanations in a different colored pen/pencil.*

**The Matter Movement Question**

**Draw and label** arrows that show how molecules move from detritus into the fungus.

- Show and label molecules with carbon atoms in detritus.
- Show and label how molecules with carbon in detritus move into and through the dark-bordered hyphal cell.
- Show how molecules with carbon move to other cells in the fungus.

**Level 4: Labeled arrows showing:**

- **Large organic molecules (or polymers: proteins, fats/lipids and/or carbohydrates) in the detritus.**
- **Small organic molecules in the detritus.**
- **Small organic molecules entering the hyphal cell in cellular-scale drawing.**
- **Small organic molecules (or monomers: amino acids, sugars, fatty acids and glycerol) going through the fungus.**

*1 point for each correct arrow/molecule. 4 points total.*

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**The Matter Change Question**

Name the chemical change that a fungus uses to break down food: **Level 4: digestion**  
*1 point for correct answer.*

What molecules are carbon atoms in before the chemical change?  
**Level 4: Large organic molecules (or**

What molecules are carbon atoms in after the chemical change?

**polymers: carbohydrates, fats/lipids, and proteins).**

*1 point for correct answer.*

What other molecules are needed?

**Level 4: Water**

*1 point for correct answer.*

**Chemical Change**

**Level 4: Small organic molecules (or monomers: amino acids, sugars, and fatty acids)**

*1 point for correct answer.*

What other molecules are produced?

**Level 4: none**

*1 point for correct answer.*

### The Energy Question

What forms of energy go into this chemical change?

**Level 4: Chemical energy**

*1 point for correct answer.*

**Energy Transformation**

What forms of energy come out of this chemical change?

**Level 4: Chemical energy**

*1 point for correct answer.*

**Explain in words:** How does a fungus get small organic molecules to its cells? (Answer on the back).

Use this Explanations Tool to help guide your written explanation, being sure to answer the Three Questions.

Remember: **Atoms last forever** (so you can arrange atoms into new molecules but can't add or subtract atoms).

**Energy lasts forever** (so you can change forms of energy, but energy units can't appear or go away).

**Level 4 responses should include answers to each of the four numbered steps on the Three Questions poster and handout:**

- 1. Matter movement: Large organic molecules (or polymers: carbohydrates, fats/lipids, proteins) are in the detritus.**
- 2. Matter change: Enzymes, released by the fungus, break large organic molecules into small organic molecules (or monomers: amino acids, sugars, fatty acids, glycerol) outside of the fungus.**
- 3. Energy change: The chemical energy of the C-C and C-H bonds in the large organic molecules remains in the C-C and C-H bonds of the small organic molecules.**
- 4. Matter movement: The small organic molecules enter into the hyphal cells and travel to the rest of the fungus.**

Level 2 and 3 responses may describe a digestive process of breaking down food but will state or imply the food is broken down or turned into energy by digestive enzymes. Level 3 responses might include more detail confusing digestion with cellular respiration.

*1 point for each correct answer.*

*4 points total.*