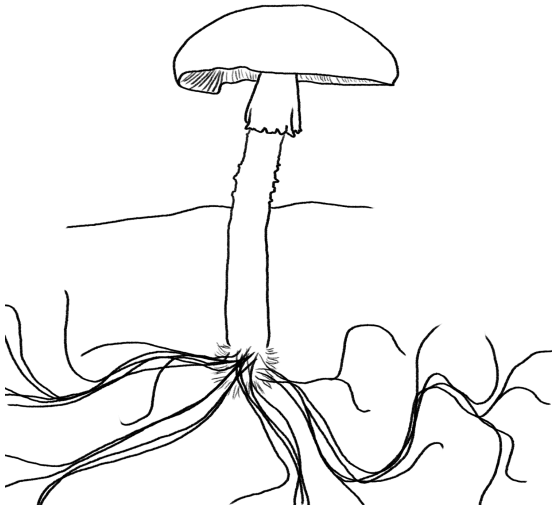
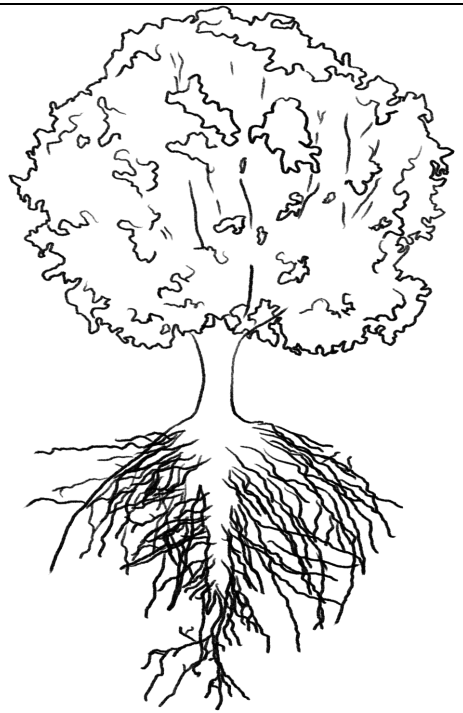
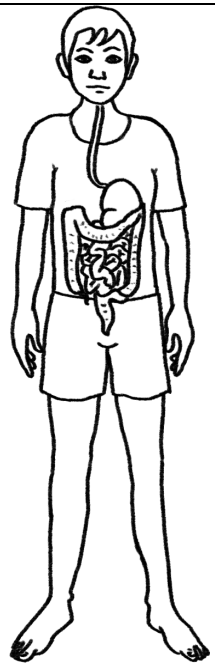
Name _____ Teacher _____ Date _____

6.3 Comparing Decomposers, Plants, and Animals

Compare the pathways that carbon atoms take through a growing fungus, a growing tree, and a growing child.

		
Draw arrows to show where carbon atoms enter the fungi and the pathway through the fungi that they take to reach the growing mushroom.	Draw arrows to show where carbon atoms enter the tree and the pathway through the tree that they take to reach its growing root.	Draw arrows to show where the carbon atoms enter the child and the pathway through the child that they take to reach a growing leg muscle.

Tell the story of what happens to the carbon atoms as they travel through the fungus, tree, and the child by completing the table on the next page.

Telling the story of the carbon atoms

Use the table below to tell a step-by-step story of what happens to the carbon atoms in the fungus, the tree, and the child.

Stage in the story	***Fungus Story***	***Tree story***	***Child story***
Words to use:	Include these words in your fungus story (you can use a word more than once) • Digestion • Dead materials • Cellular Respiration • Biosynthesis • CO_2 • Large organic molecule • Small organic molecule	Include these words in your tree story (you can use a word more than once): • Photosynthesis • CO_2 • Glucose • Small organic molecule • Large organic molecule • Biosynthesis • Cellular respiration	Include these words in your child story (you can use a word more than once): • Digestion • CO_2 • Glucose • Small organic molecule • Large organic molecule • Biosynthesis • Cellular respiration
1. Entering the fungus, tree, or child: Explain where and how carbon atoms enter the fungus, tree, or child and what kind of molecules the atoms are in.			
2. First chemical change: Describe the first chemical change that rearranges the atoms into more useful molecules.			
3. Traveling: Explain how the molecules with carbon atoms move…	…to a cell in the mushroom.	…to a cell in the root of the tree.	…to a cell in the leg of the child.

4. Cellular growth: Explain how the cell changes some molecules to grow and divide into more cells.			
5. Cellular energy: Explain how the cell changes some molecules to get energy for growth and cellular work.			

Comparing Fungi, Plants, and Animals

A fungus is more like a PLANT / an ANIMAL. (circle one)

Explain your reasoning.

How is a fungus different from your choice?