agriculture

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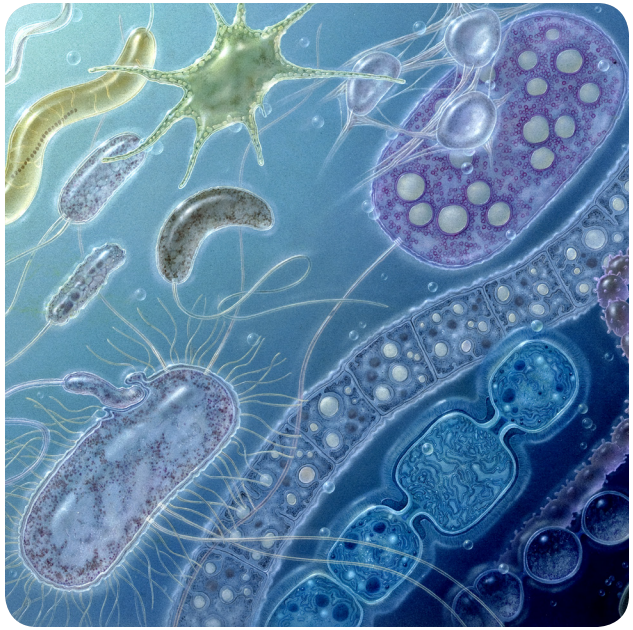
bacteria



Microscopic, one-celled organisms.

The practice of growing crops and raising animals for food, fiber, or other uses by humans.

compost

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decomposers

Bacteria and fungi that get energy from the matter in dead organisms and waste.

Decomposing plant and animal matter that is used to fertilize soil.

decomposition

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ecosystem

A community of plants, animals, and their surroundings that depend on each other.

The breaking down of dead organisms into their chemical and mineral parts.

fungus

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fungus

The dark brown or black layer in soil that consists of decayed organic matter.

An organism, such as a mushroom, that gets energy and matter primarily from other dead organisms.

landfill

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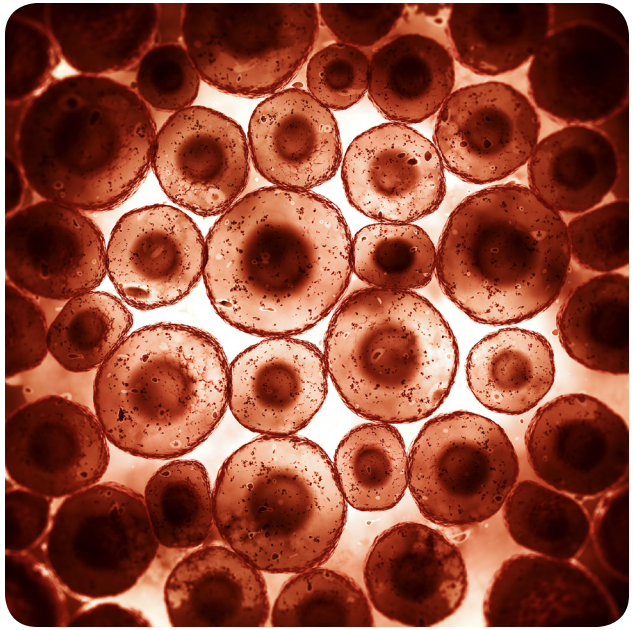
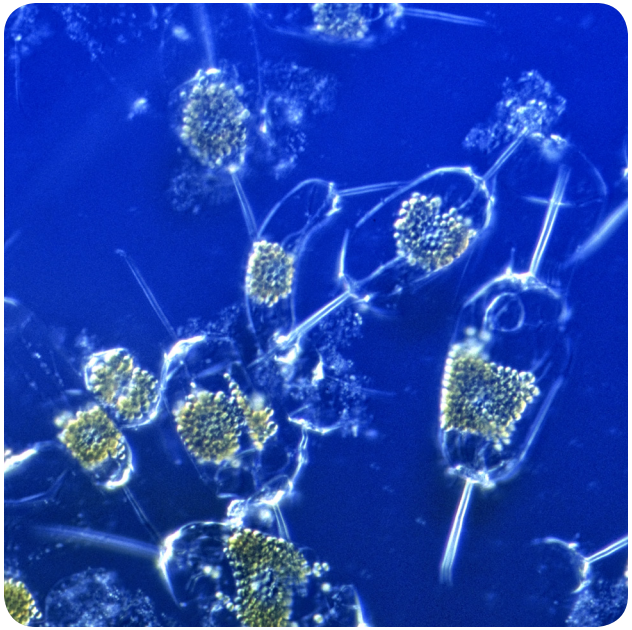


matter

What all things are made of.

A place where solid waste, such as garbage and trash, is taken and buried.



microorganism

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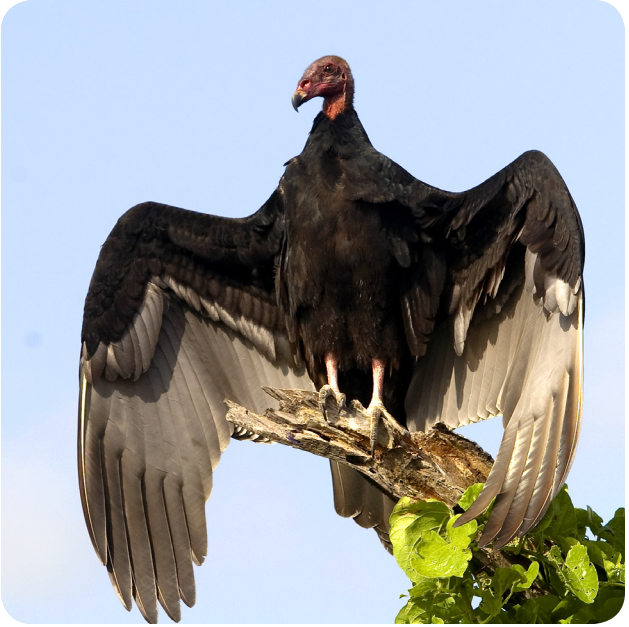
nutrient

A substance that provides nourishment for growth and energy to a living thing.

A very small organism that can be seen only with the aid of a microscope.



scavenger

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topsoil

The dark, fertile, uppermost layer of soil.

An animal that gets its energy and matter by eating dead organisms.

waste

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waste management

Undigested foods and liquids that are not used by the body and are expelled; or, materials and products that humans cannot use.

The system of collecting, transporting, and processing waste created by humans.