**Comparing the Needs of Living Things**

Consider the three groups of living things below.

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| **Three Kinds of Organisms** |
| **Animals*** Humans
* Cows
* Mealworms
* Fish
* Sponges
 | **Plants*** Radishes
* Potato Plants
* Oak Trees
* Algae
* Grass
 | **Decomposers*** Bread mold
* Mushrooms
* Yeast
* Soil Bacteria
 |

Create a list of how these three types of organisms are alike and how they are different.

At your teacher’s signal, share your list with a partner.

* Star any characteristics you have both written.
* Add any new ideas your partner had in the Partner’s Ideas space.

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| --- | --- |
| **My Ideas** | **My Partner’s Ideas**  |
| Characteristics they have in common: | Characteristics they have in common: |
| Characteristics that are different: | Characteristics that are different: |

Your teacher will share three animations that examine characteristics of each of these types of organisms. Use the information from the animations to edit your lists.

**Venn Diagram Directions**

1. **Summarize:**  Use the word bank below to summarize your ideas about what characteristics different organisms share.
2. **Circle** the characteristics that relate to the *structure of organisms* (what they are made of).
3. **Underline** the characteristics that relate to the *functions of organisms* (what they do).
* Made of molecules
* Uses energy from other organisms
* Needs energy
* Recycles nutrients to soil
* Eats other organisms

**Word Bank**

* Consumer/heterotroph
* Producer/autotroph
* Made of cells
* Made of atoms
* Uses energy from light to make food



Decomposers