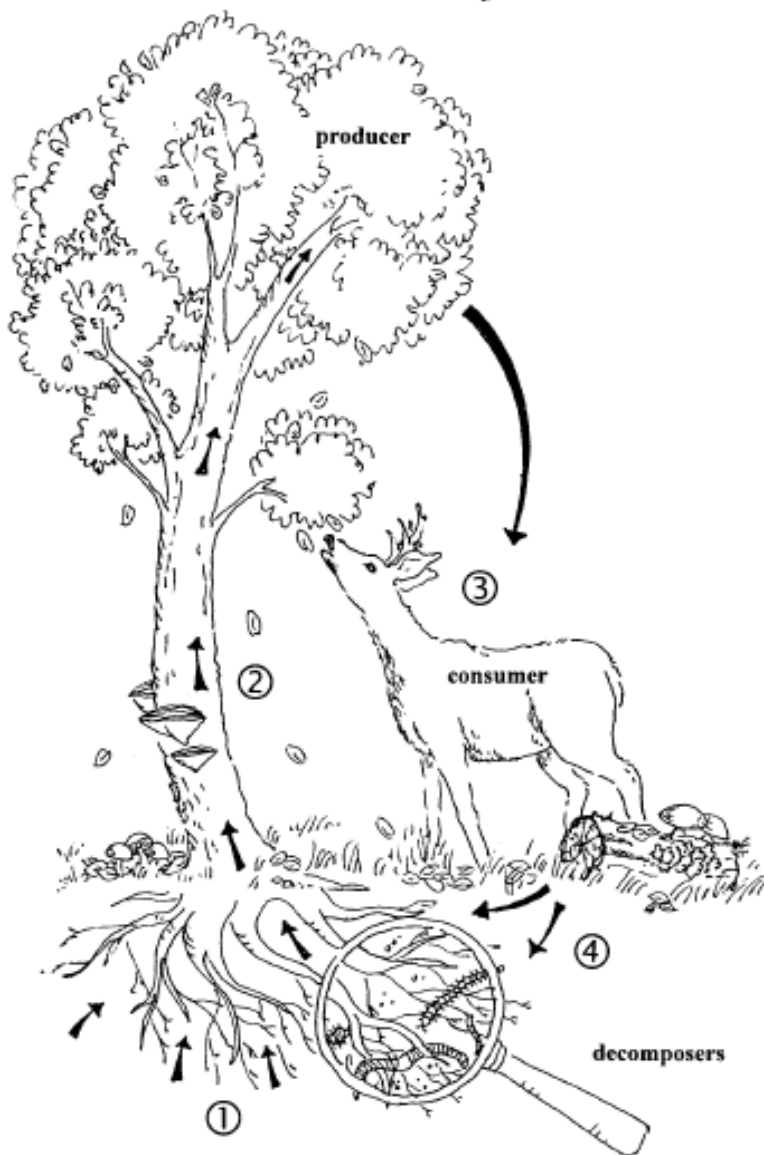


13. The Nutrient Cycle



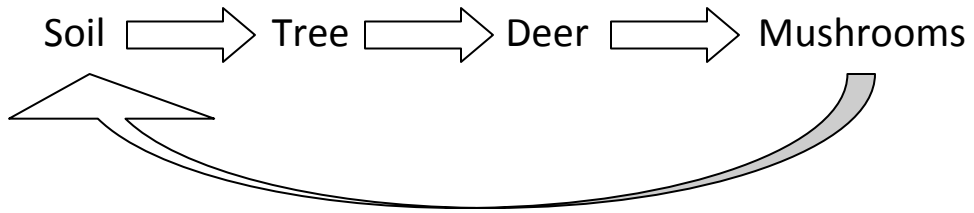
Part I:

Using the diagram on the left to guide you, put the following steps in order (1-4) to show how decomposers return nutrients to the soil where they are reused by trees:

- Leaves fall to the ground or are eaten by consumers
- Nutrients in the soil are absorbed by tree roots
- Decomposers break down dead plant or animal matter and return the nutrients to the soil where the cycle begins again
- Nutrients travel up the trunk to the leaves

Part II:

Here is an example of a nutrient cycle:



1. Draw and label your own example of a nutrient cycle – remember to start with soil.