Vocabulary

mystery science

Lesson: Why do you have to clean a fish tank but not a pond?

algae	organisms that live in water and that produce their own food, like plants do
atmosphere	the gases that surround a planet
bacteria	an organism that is usually a decomposer; some cause illness
carbon cycle	the process of carbon moving back and forth between non-living and living parts of the environment, like carbon dioxide in the air moving into plants
carbon dioxide	a type of gas that plants sometimes take in and that animals release when they breathe
consumer	a living thing that eats other living things
cycle	a set of events that repeats in the same order over and over
decomposer	a living thing that can break down dead plants, dead animals, or animal waste
ecosystem	all the living things that interact with each other and their environment in one place
fungus (fungi)	a living thing that is a decomposer, such as a mold or mushroom
matter	anything that takes up space and has weight; can be in different forms such as solid, liquid, or gas
model	a pretend version of something that scientists use when the real thing is too big, small, or complicated to work with

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nutrient (micronutrient)	a substance that living things need to grow and stay healthy
organism	any living thing
oxygen	a type of gas that plants release and animals breathe in
phytoplankton	tiny, floating living things in water that are smaller than algae and produce their own food, like plants do
producer	a living thing that makes its own food
system	a group of things that affect each other and function as a whole