

## ACTIVITY 6 – EXTENSION 1

# Decomposition cycle

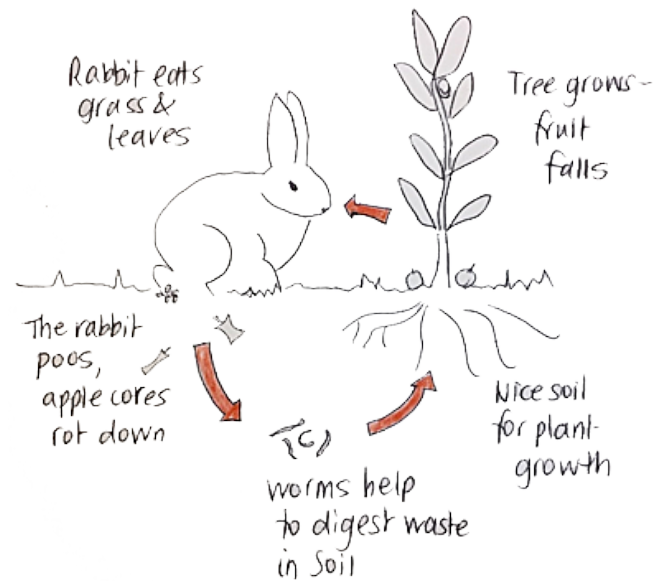
In this lesson, students will be asked what they know about decomposition in the soil, and asked to illustrate this as a very simple nutrient cycle.

Science ACSSU002 Living things have basic needs, including food and water

Science ACSSU211 Living things live in different places where their needs are met

Science ACSHE021 Science involves observing, asking questions about, and describing changes in, objects and events

Sustainability OI.1, OI.2, OI.3 All life forms are connected to, and dependent upon, the ecosystems in which they live



## Method

Ask the students to think of what happens to things when they break down, then they can attempt to draw this as a very simple nutrient cycle. An example is shown below where animal droppings, food scraps and fruit provide fertilizer for the soil. Then worms help to digest this in the soil, then seedlings will grow in this soil. Plants will grow and flower and make fruits, providing food for the animals, and fertilize the soil ... as a cycle.

Discuss the important work of worms and other invertebrates such as dung beetles and what they need in order to survive (e.g. *moisture, food, absence of light*). Discuss the concept of 'plant food'.