Decomposers Assignment

Value: 30 marks

***Complete the questions below.***

1. (2) What are microbes (microorganisms)? Can they be seen with the naked eye?

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2. (1) What is the estimated number of species of bacteria that live on earth? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. (1) Name three places that microbes thrive. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. (2) Some microbes need oxygen to survive. What about the ones living in our digestive system?

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5. (4) Are microbes good or bad? Explain with examples. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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6. (4) Why are microbes important in an ecosystem? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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7. (16) Choose two specific microscopic decomposers, one that is beneficial to us or the environment and one that is harmful. Find a picture of each and describe with words what it looks like (you may also draw it). Describe where it lives and the effects that it would have on us or the surrounding ecosystem. You may submit your answer on loose leaf/or typed, bristol board, Powerpoint/SMART Notebook (2-4 slides total) or as a blog entry. Write down the websites where you find any of your information or pictures (references).

A few sites you can check out:

<http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/howdoescompostingwork/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShGF5mkFbzU>

<http://www.nhptv.org/natureworks/nwep11b.htm>

<http://microbes.org/>

<http://www.skwirk.com.au/p-c_s-4_u-200_t-560_c-2087/decomposers-and-food-chains/nsw/decomposers-and-food-chains/ecology/interactions>

<http://schools.bcsd.com/fremont/4th_Sci_Life_decomposers.htm>

<http://citadel.sjfc.edu/students/naa07113/e-port/decomposers.html>