



## 1. Bacteria \*

**TRAITS:** Are microscopic organisms that may be round, rod-shaped, or spiral-shaped.

**HABITAT:** Some types of bacteria occur in every moist environment; a tablespoon of soil may contain millions of bacteria.

**FOODS:** Mainly dead plant, fungi, and animal materials; some kinds of bacteria live as parasites of living things, and some are able to make their own food by photosynthesis.

**EATEN BY:** Some fungi and invertebrates.

**"GEE WHIZ":** Bacteria are the major decomposers in some ecosystems. They can survive long periods of inactivity and unfavorable conditions. Some bacteria are parasites and cause diseases of plants, animals, or fungi; others live in the digestive tracts of animals and aid digestion.



## 2. Crustose Lichens \*

**TRAITS:** Crustlike, thin lichens.

**HABITAT:** Grow on rocks, bones, etc.

**FOODS:** Lichens make their own food by photosynthesis.

**EATEN BY:** Mites, some worms.

**"GEE WHIZ":** Lichens are actually made up of two living things: an alga and a fungus.



## 3. Fruticose Lichens \*

**TRAITS:** Shrublike, branching lichens.

**HABITAT:** Grow on dry or moist ground and in trees.

**FOODS:** Lichens make their own food by photosynthesis.

**EATEN BY:** Caribou, lemmings, mites, some worms.

**"GEE WHIZ":** Lichens are actually made up of two living things: an alga and a fungus.