



1. Senescence: growing season comes to an end and plants begin to shed their leaves.



2. The process of decomposition begins.



4. With the start of the next growing season, near by trees use the minerals that had leached into the soil as nutrients.



3.

- Detrivores break down organic matter into smaller sizes.
- Decomposers (bacteria and fungi) further chemically reduce matter into inorganic minerals such as Nitrogen and Phosphate.
- Through this process certain molecules leech into the soil and gasses such as CO₂ are released.