Scavenger Encyclopedia Article

Scavenger

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Scavenger

Any substance or organism that cleans a setting by removing dirt, decaying matter, or some other unwanted material. Vultures are typical biological scavengers because they feed on the carcasses of dead animals. Certain **chemicals** can act as scavengers in chemical reactions. Lithium and magnesium are used in the metal industry as scavengers since these metals react with and remove small amounts of oxygen and **nitrogen** from molten metals. Even rain and snow can be regarded as scavengers because they wash pollutants out of the **atmosphere**.