

Name _____

Beneath the Surface: Bacteria's Vital Role in the Nitrogen Cycle

Short Answer Key

1. Nitrogen-fixing bacteria primarily reside in the soil.
2. Nitrifying bacteria convert ammonia into nitrates in the nitrogen cycle.
3. Ammonification is the process by which decomposer bacteria break down organic matter into ammonia.
4. Leguminous plants benefit from their relationship with nitrogen-fixing bacteria by accessing nitrogen directly from the air.
5. Denitrification is significant in nitrogen cycling as it recycles nitrates back into atmospheric nitrogen gas.

