

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Nourishing the Earth: The Impact of the Nitrogen Cycle on Soil Fertility

### Short Answer

1. Describe the process of nitrogen fixation and its role in soil fertility.
2. Explain how nitrification enhances soil fertility by converting ammonium into nitrate.
3. Discuss the importance of denitrification in maintaining the balance of nitrogen in soil ecosystems.
4. How do plants assimilate nitrogen obtained from the soil into organic molecules?
5. Describe one potential consequence of excess nitrate in soil for both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

