

Lab exercise 12 questions

- 1. Describe macro-, meso-, and microfauna. Give 2 examples of each and for each example list their primary function in the soil.**
- 2. Define heterotrophic and autotrophic organisms. What does each contribute to the soil?**
- 3. What do earthworms feed on or what do they get their nourishment from specifically?**
- 4. Explain how earthworms may be able to increase the availability of plant nutrients.**
- 5. Discuss how earthworms may be able to help rid the soil of unwanted chemicals (pesticides/herbicides etc.)?**
- 6. Comment on the fact that termites (mostly found in tropical regions) can contribute to the greenhouse effect. How is this possible?**
- 7. How does predation by nematodes and protozoa on fungi and bacteria accelerate nutrient cycling?**
- 8. What does adding manure provide for soil microbes and some soil fauna? What happens to microbial communities and the diversity of microbial communities upon the addition of manure?**
- 9. Describe the difference in microbial communities in the rhizosphere versus the soil beyond the rhizosphere.**

10. Comment on the effect of tillage activities specifically on earthworms, fungi and bacterial communities both initially and over time. Explain why this is so.