Vocabulary

- Bacteria
- Microbe
- Homeostasis
- Nitrogen Cycle
- Decomposers
- Pathogen
Homeostasis: Microorganisms

1. Describe how bacteria are involved in the Nitrogen Cycle. Are the bacteria involved in this cycle helpful or harmful to the ecosystem?

2. What might happen to an ecosystem if there were no nitrogen-fixing bacteria present in the soil? What type of plant life would you expect?

3. How does an ecosystem benefit from the breakdown of dead plant and animal matter by decomposers?
4. Give an example of a species of bacteria that aids human digestion and describe its role in digestion.

5. Give an example of a species of bacteria that causes digestive issues (gastritis, food poisoning, etc.) and describe the symptoms it can cause.

6. What steps can you take to prevent contracting and/or spreading bacterial infections.

7. Why might you feel sick to your stomach after taking a broad-spectrum antibiotic?