



Name: _____

Section: _____

Date: _____

Soil Nutrient Cycling: Student Assessment

Use your knowledge of nutrient cycling in the soils of Monteverde's tropical montane cloud forests to answer the following questions.

1. Name the six soil nutrient cyclers we discussed in class:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

2. Select three of these organisms and explain their roles in nutrient cycling. What nutrients are involved and how does each organism process them?

➤ Organism: _____
Role: _____

➤ Organism: _____
Role: _____

➤ Organism: _____
Role: _____



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3. Read the following conversation between friends Lin and Pedro. Fill in Pedro's last comment in a way that helps Lin understand the situation.

Lin: *Why do we use the terms "decomposition" and "nutrient cycling"? Let's just use the word "decomposition" for both since they're the same thing.*

Pedro: *Actually they're not the same. They are related, though, so I understand why you might think that.*

Lin: *Really? How are they different?*

Pedro: _____

4. If nutrients stopped cycling, would they just disappear? No way! The elements would not be destroyed. Why is it, then, that plants benefit from the actions of soil nutrient cyclers? Can't they just get the nutrients for themselves somewhere else?

