Learning Plan 5 Review Questions

1. What is the dominant mesofauna? What is the dominant macrofauna?

2. What is responsible for the “earthy” smell of soil?

3. What is the difference between ectomycorrhizae and endomycorrhizae?

4. What do earthworms do to help the soil?

5. How do Protista and many nematodes fit into the nitrogen cycle? How do they fit into the detrital food chain?

6. Pocket gophers, which tunnel in the soil, eating plant roots and leaving piles of soil above ground, are considered a pest of pastures, lawns, orchards and many other settings. Could they be considered desirable to soil? Explain.

7. In no-till agriculture, one does not plow or cultivate the soil, and residues are left as a mulch on the surface. How might this affect earthworm populations, and would it be beneficial?

8. Describe the biological part of the nitrogen cycle.