

Science 1206 Worksheet 5: The Animal Community in Soils

Name: _____

Read pages 97,98, and 99 to get a better understanding of soil formation.

Problem: Is there a difference in the types and amounts of insects and other small invertebrates found in soil litter or in soil?

Hypothesis: _____

Materials: See page 104 in Nelson 10.

Procedure: See Page 104-105 in Nelson 10.

Results:

Type of Invertebrate	Numbers Found	
	Litter	Soil
Woodlouse (carpenter)	4	2
Ant	6	3
Earthworm	2	0
Centipede	2	0
Earwig	3	0

Analysis:

1. Compare the number of organisms you found in the litter with the number found in the soil. Explain the difference.

2. Explain how trees could affect the animal population

3. Identify abiotic conditions that affect the animal population in soil or litter. Explain how two of these factors would be affect specific animals.

Understanding Concepts:

1. Based on your observations, how do animals affect soil quality? Explain your answer.

2. Using Table 1 on page 105:

a) What abiotic factors provide a favourable environment for earthworms in the soil sample 2?

b) What biotic factors provide a favourable environment for earthworms in the soil sample 2?

c) Centipedes prey on insects. Why are centipedes more likely to be found in sample 2 than in sample 3?
