

Exercise 2

Discuss the importance and implications of the nitrogen cycle. One of the most vital, yet the least visible elements of the nitrogen cycle are the bacteria. Discuss what you think might happen when you put fish into a new aquaponics system without the bacteria present.

To help the discussion you might like to think about these questions:

- Where do bacteria come from? Can you help grow bacteria in your system?
- How long do you think it takes for the bacteria to develop?
- How long is the optimal time before adding fish to a new system?
- What temperatures are needed for bacteria?
- What might happen to bacteria during summer or winter?
- Where are the different places bacteria might develop in an aquaponics system?
