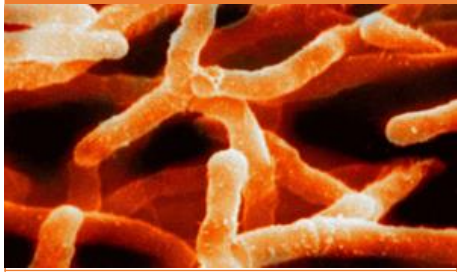## Actinomycetes

Creature type: Bacteria

Lives: around the edges of soil particles in the rhizosphere close to plant roots.

Abilities: Master eater – can decompose tough materials like the lignin in bark and the exoskeletons of dead insects.
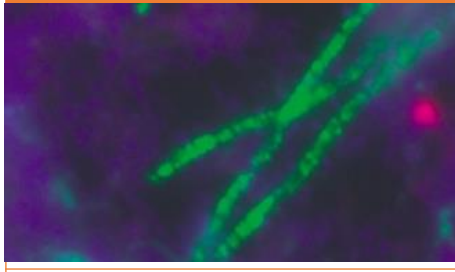
Connections:
Eats dead plants, leaves and animals.
Eaten by protozoa and nematodes.

Microbe

Acidobacteria

Creature type: Bacteria

Lives: around the edges of soil particles in the rhizosphere close to plant roots.

Abilities: Ravenous wizard – decomposes dead plants and animals and transforms them into nutrients that can be used by others.

Connections:
Eats dead plants, leaves and animals .
Eaten by protozoa and nematodes.

Microbe

Fungi

Creature type: Fungi

Lives: in the rhizosphere close to plant roots.

Abilities: Explorer transformer – Branches through the soil in a search of food and plants it can swap nutrients for energy with. Some fungi trap and kill nematodes.

Connections:
Eats dead plants, leaves and animals.
Eaten by nematodes and arthropods.

Fungi

Ciliate

Creature type: Protozoa

Lives: in the rhizosphere close to plant roots.

Abilities: Bacteria hunter- ciliates use their many hair-like cilia like legs to move about and hunt bacteria.

Connections:
Eats bacteria
Eaten by nematodes

Microfauna

Amoeba

Creature type: Protozoa

Lives: in the rhizosphere close to plant roots.

Abilities: Mega slug - one type of amoeba called a Dicty lives alone unless food is scarce and then tens of thousands of them come together to form one big slug shape to go on a hunt for food.

Connections:
Eats bacteria
Eaten by nematodes

Microfauna

Flagellate

Creature type: Protozoa

Lives: in the rhizosphere close to plant roots.

Abilities: Super spreader – the number of flagellates grows rapidly when there's enough bacteria for them to eat.

Connections:
Eats bacteria
Eaten by nematodes

Microfauna

Tardigrade

Creature type: Microscopic invertebrate

Lives: in water in the top layer of soil

Abilities: Extreme survivor – can survive in extreme environments including space.

Connections:
Eats: bacteria, protozoa, plant cells, fungi, other tardigrades
Eaten by: nematodes, other tardigrades

Microfauna

Nematode

Creature type: Microscopic invertebrate

Lives: wherever their food can be found

Abilities: Hungry traveller – Moves through the soil carrying and redistributing microbes.

Connections:
Eats: bacteria, protozoa, other nematodes, fungi or roots.
Eaten by: some fungi, earthworms and nematodes

Microfauna

Springtail

Creature type: Arthropod

Lives: in leaf litter, soil and even in people's houses

Abilities: Rain leaper– can jump incredible distances. Thrives in damp environments

Connections:
Eats: bacteria, protozoa, decaying plants, fungi
Eaten by : beetles and spiders

Mesofauna

Earthworm

Creature type: Invertebrate

Lives: in the top meter of soil where it's damp

Abilities: Soil architect - burrows through the soil creating spaces for water and air. Breaks food into smaller pieces that bacteria and fungi can feed on.

Connections:
Eats: decaying plants, leaf litter, soils
Eaten by: birds, moles, badgers

Macrofauna

Gull

Creature type: Bird

Lives: in urban areas and at the coasts. Some build their nests on rooftops.

Abilities: Worm charmer - can dance like the rain on the ground to trick worms into coming up to the surface.

Connections:
Eats: earthworms, fish, household waste.

Fauna