Denitrification Encyclopedia Article

Denitrification

The following sections of this BookRags Literature Study Guide is offprint from Gale's For Students Series: Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Commonly Studied Works: Introduction, Author Biography, Plot Summary, Characters, Themes, Style, Historical Context, Critical Overview, Criticism and Critical Essays, Media Adaptations, Topics for Further Study, Compare & Contrast, What Do I Read Next?, For Further Study, and Sources.

(c)1998-2002; (c)2002 by Gale. Gale is an imprint of The Gale Group, Inc., a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. Gale and Design and Thomson Learning are trademarks used herein under license.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: "Social Concerns", "Thematic Overview", "Techniques", "Literary Precedents", "Key Questions", "Related Titles", "Adaptations", "Related Web Sites". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults: "About the Author", "Overview", "Setting", "Literary Qualities", "Social Sensitivity", "Topics for Discussion", "Ideas for Reports and Papers". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

All other sections in this Literature Study Guide are owned and copyrighted by BookRags, Inc.

Contents

Denitrification Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Denitrification.....3

Denitrification

A stage in the **nitrogen cycle** in which **nitrates** in the **soil** or in dead organic matter are converted into nitrite, **nitrous oxide**, ammonia, or (primarily) elemental **nitrogen**. The process is made possible by certain types of bacteria, known as denitrifying bacteria. Denitrification is a reduction reaction and occurs, therefore, in the absence of oxygen. For example, flooded soil is likely to experience significant denitrification since it is cut off from atmospheric oxygen. Although denitrification is an important process for the decay of dead organisms, it can also be responsible for the loss of natural and synthetic fertilizers from the soil.