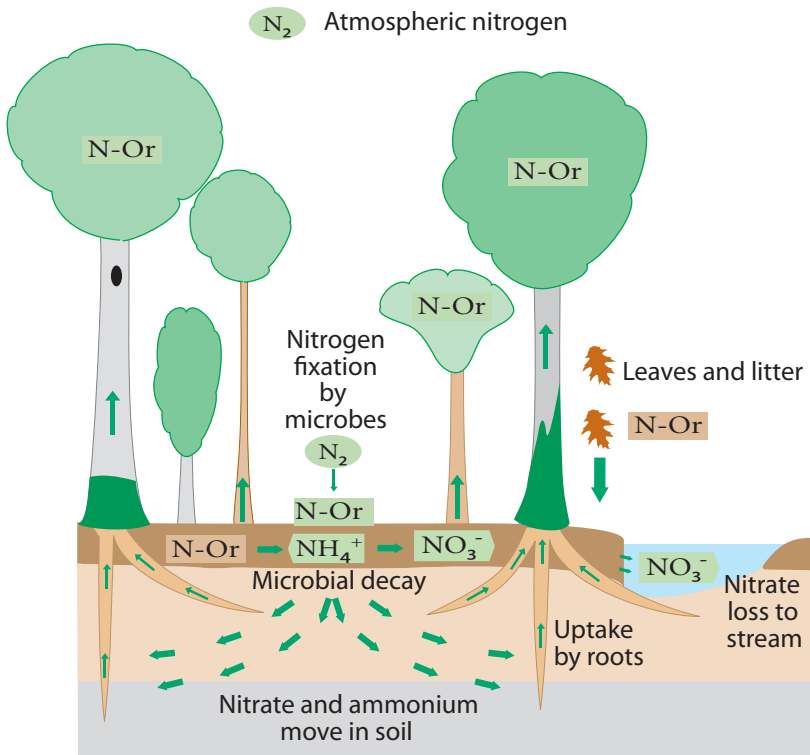


NITROGEN CYCLING IN AN UNDISTURBED FOREST



In an undisturbed forest most of the nitrogen cycles between living plants and dead organic mater in the soil. Plants take up nitrogen through their roots; microbes release the nitrogen from dead leaves and branches to the soil. Small amounts enter the cycle through nitrogen fixation, and even smaller amounts leave in streams.