Discussion Questions:

1. How are protists different from other plants and animals? How are they similar?

*Protists are different from plants and animals because protists are microorganisms. They are much smaller, and some protists are single celled. Unlike plants, protists have complez roots. Protists are similar to plants and animals because some make their own food, while others hunt for food. They are both living things. Some protists are multicelled, like plants and animals.*

1. What are 3 helpful uses for bacteria?

*One helpful use of bacteria is make yogurt and cheese. They also make soy sauce and sauerkraut. Phytoplankton is food for fish and gives oxygen. Some can be used in medicine and others can help clean up oil spills. Types of bacteria help your digestive system. Bacteria acts as a natural pest control.*

1. Why is mold on blue cheese safe to eat? Why is mold on other foods not safe to eat?

The mold on blue cheese helps make the cheese. The mold on bread and other foods is wooly and fuzzy. This is harmful.

1. Why are phytoplankton so important?

*Phytoplankton releases oxygen that helps us breathe. They are also the main food for little fish, which are food for bigger fish.*

1. Why is it necessary for phytoplankton to float near the surface of water?

*Phytoplankton use the sunlight for photosynthesis.*

1. Where are harmful bacteria found?

*Harmful bacteria are found on raw meats and unsanitary conditions.*

1. If all of the microorganisms disappeared, what would 5 effects be?

*-no yogurt or cheese or bread*

*-dead organisms everywhere*

*-much less oxygen to breathe*

*-fewer fish to eat; fewer plants*

*-fewer medicines to prevent disease*