Questions that can be addressed with alpha diversity:

How many taxa are in a sample? What is the richness of my sample?

Have I sequenced to a depth (coverage) that describes the diversity of my sample?

Does condition X have higher phylogenetic diversity than condition Y?

Beta Diversity

- Beta diversity measures the diversity *between* samples.

- The distance between each pair of samples (with respect to community composition) is calculated.

- Read depth is important here also, so rarefaction is performed

- There are many ways to calculate beta diversity; we will use one: UniFrac

Questions that can be addressed with alpha diversity:

How many taxa are in a sample? What is the richness of my sample?

Have I sequenced to a depth (coverage) that describes the diversity of my sample?

Does condition X have higher phylogenetic diversity than condition Y?