

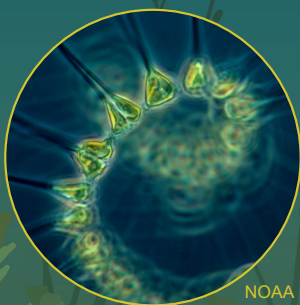
GREEN MACHINES

PROTIST PRODUCERS

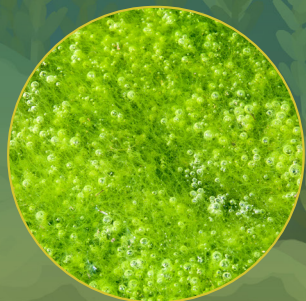
TWO PRODUCERS, PHYTOPLANKTON AND ALGAE, THRIVE IN PONDS. THEY PROVIDE FOOD AND OXYGEN TO OTHER ORGANISMS AND CAN EVEN TURN THE WATER GREEN. BOTH ARE VERY PLANT-LIKE, BUT NEITHER OF THEM ARE PLANTS, THEY ARE PROTISTS.

PHYTOPLANKTON

IS A MICROSCOPIC ALGAE THAT FLOATS IN OPEN WATER AND IS MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THE WATER APPEAR GREEN.



NOAA



ALGAE IS A GREEN, SLIMY, PLANT-LIKE ORGANISM THAT LIKES TO ATTACH ITSELF TO SURFACES LIKE ROCK OR FLOAT ON THE WATER.

Most protists create energy through

PHOTOSYNTHESIS

Use the word bank to uncover the process of photosynthesis.

WORD BANK: **PROTISTS, GREEN, SUNLIGHT, OXYGEN**

Photosynthesis occurs when _____ plants and other organisms, like _____, create their own food using water, carbon dioxide (CO₂), and _____. Through this process, they then release _____, which allows all of us to breathe!

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Pond Life

ARE YOU FOND OF PONDS? I KNOW I AM! PONDS ARE HOME TO ALL KINDS OF CREATURES, INCLUDING DRAGONFLIES LIKE ME!



Let's meet some pond friends and learn how to identify the **producers** and **consumers** of this habitat. While exploring, try to stay on the trail and not disturb the sensitive plants and animals living around the pond.

Producers and Consumers

Check off any Producers or Consumers you may find at the Pond.

Producers make their own food using the sun for energy. They include Plants, Algae, and Phytoplankton. Look around to see if you can find these six Producers.



Algae



Duckweed



Pennywort



Cattail



Sedge



Wapato

Consumers depend on other organisms for their food. They include animals and insects. Some consumers will eat the Producers, while some will eat other consumers. Look around the Pond and see if you can find these six Consumers.



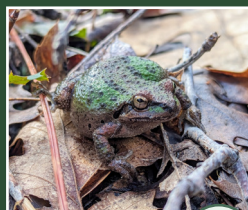
Dragonfly



Snake



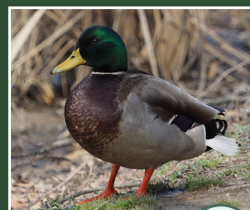
Turtle



Frog



Muskrat



Duck

Who's at the Pond?

THE ECOSYSTEM OF A POND PROVIDES FOOD AND SHELTER FOR THE CONSUMERS THAT DEPEND ON THE POND TO SURVIVE.

MAGNIFICENT MAMMALS

Mammals like raccoons, otters, rodents, and beavers frequently visit ponds. Ponds make good homes for mammals that can swim or like to hunt and forage in wet areas. Look for animal tracks along the banks of the pond.



BOISTEROUS BIRDS

Birds are very active around ponds. Ducks can be spotted floating on the surface, while herons wade close to the edge to hunt. As you explore, listen for different bird calls. How many unique calls did you hear?



ACTIVE AMPHIBIANS

Keep an eye out for frogs and salamanders in and around bodies of water. Amphibians spend a portion of their life cycle in water, so you may spot tadpoles swimming or a clump of eggs in shallow water. Keep tab of how many you can find in this white box.



RAD REPTILES

Beyond amphibians, reptiles also hunt and hide in ponds. Turtles can be seen in the water, while snakes and lizards are more likely basking in the sun on land. What do you think reptiles eat in this pond?

INTERESTING INSECTS

Ponds are teeming with insects of all kinds. Mosquitoes, dragonflies, and water striders can be found living near ponds. They provide food for fish, frogs, and other small carnivores. Can you spot three different insects? Write down which ones you see.

