

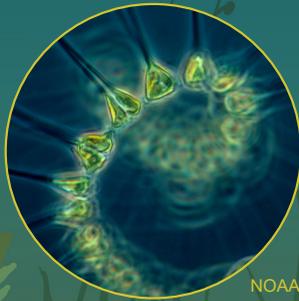
GREEN MACHINES

PROTIST PRODUCERS

TWO PRODUCERS, PHYTOPLANKTON AND ALGAE, THRIVE IN PONDS. THEY TURN THE WATER GREEN AND PROVIDE FOOD AND OXYGEN TO OTHER ORGANISMS. BOTH ARE VERY PLANTLIKE, BUT NEITHER ARE PLANTS. THEY ARE CALLED 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, PLANTLIKE ORGANISM THAT LIKES TO ATTACH ITSELF TO SURFACES LIKE ROCK OR FLOAT ON THE WATER.

Most protists create energy through **PHOTOSYNTHESIS**.

Uncover the process of photosynthesis by using the word bank, and clues from this page, to fill in the blanks below.

WORD BANK: PROTISTS, GREEN, SUNLIGHT, OXYGEN

Photosynthesis is when _____ plants and other organisms, like _____, create their own food using water, carbon dioxide (CO_2), and _____. After a plant uses the energy it has made, it will release _____, which helps all of the pond's animals breath.

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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 of our pond friends, and learn to identify the Producers and Consumers of a pond.

Will you find more producers or consumers? Use the list inside to try to locate all 12 organisms. You may not see them all, but remember to stay on the trail as you search.

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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



Lily pad



Cattail



Sedge



Arrowhead

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



Water Strider



Turtle



Fish



Frog



Bird

Who's at the Pond?

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

MANY MAMMALS

Mammals like raccoons, opossums, 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 around the 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 find.



BUOYANT BIRDS

Bird life is very abundant at ponds. Ducks can be spotted floating on the surface, while herons wade close to the shore to hunt for small fish or reptiles. As you explore, listen for different bird calls.



FLASHY FISH

A variety of fish call the pond home. Freshwater fish such as minnows, catfish, sunfish, and bass can be found in ponds. What types of food do you think fish eat?

ACTIVE AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

Keep an eye out for frogs, salamanders, turtles, and snakes. You can find them swimming through the water or basking in the sun. Reptiles and amphibians use the pond as a place to hunt, hide, and lay eggs. Keep count of how many you can find and fill in number.

