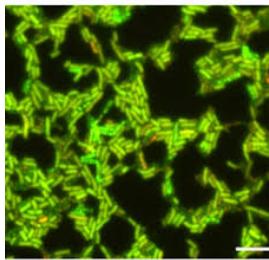


Evidence Set 3

Evidence 1a: Types of Decomposers

Scientists wanted to know more about decomposers. They took different types of dead matter and studied it closely to see the decomposers. Look at the images below to see what they found.

Dead Matter Decomposers	Decomposers
	  Can be seen with a microscope  
	  
<p>Dead deer dead seaweed</p>	

dead wood dead leaves

Fungi bacteria mold

woodlice (insects) earthworms

Evidence 1b: Decomposers on Algae

Scientists wanted to take a closer look at decomposers.

They took some algae from Passion Puddle and studied it



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under a microscope. The first piece of algae was green and fresh.

When they looked at the decomposers through a microscope, this is what they saw:



They took a second piece of algae that was brown and wilted.



When they looked at the algae through a microscope, this is what they saw:

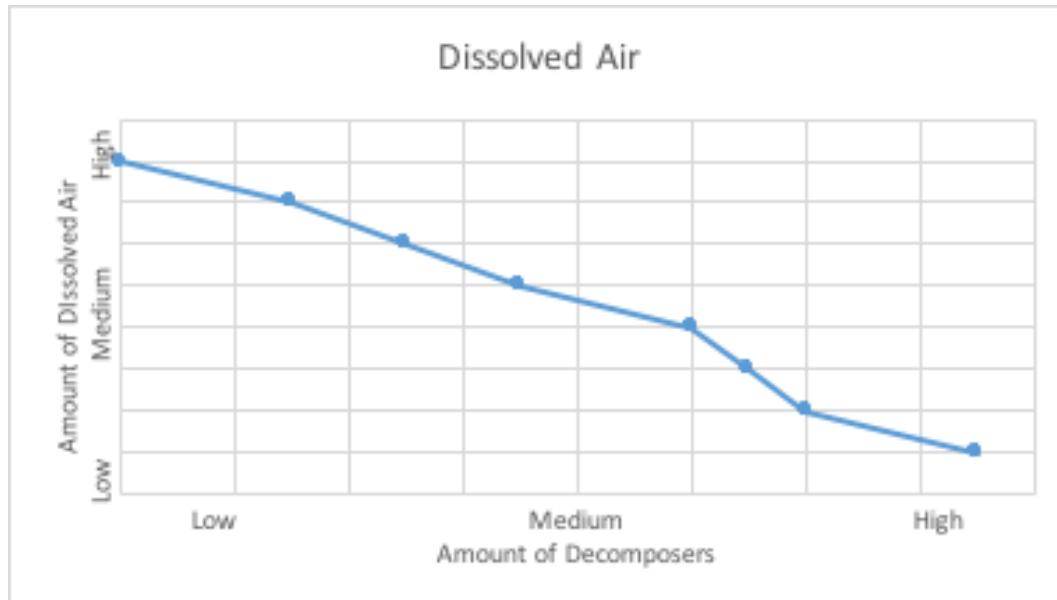


Evidence 1c: Air Levels

Scientists wanted to find out if decomposers are changing the amount of dissolved air when they break down dead algae. They placed algae in jars that had pond

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water with decomposers, observed the algae over a few days and measured the amount of dissolved air in the water. The graph below shows what they found.



Evidence 2: Baggie Experiment

In this station you will find out what happens to rotting food under different conditions. We did different things to the food in each bag to see if they would affect the outcome:

Bag 1- air- we poked holes in the bag

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Bag 2- water- we dripped water on the food

Bag 3- heat- we left this baggie in a warm place

Bag 4- cold- we put baggie in the fridge

Bag 5- dirt- we added dirt to the plate

Look at the baggies of food to see what happened in each of the conditions.

Discuss

Step 1: Look at the different baggies of food



Step 2: What do you see?

Step 3: What kinds of decomposers do you see?

Evidence 3: Videos

What do decomposers do to dead matter? Watch the video to see what happened to fruit and vegetables left in a bowl for 74 days.

Video 1: Fruit and Vegetables



Video 2: Pineapple

Here is another video about what happens to pineapple over time. Watch the video to see what happens.



Evidence 4: Microscopes

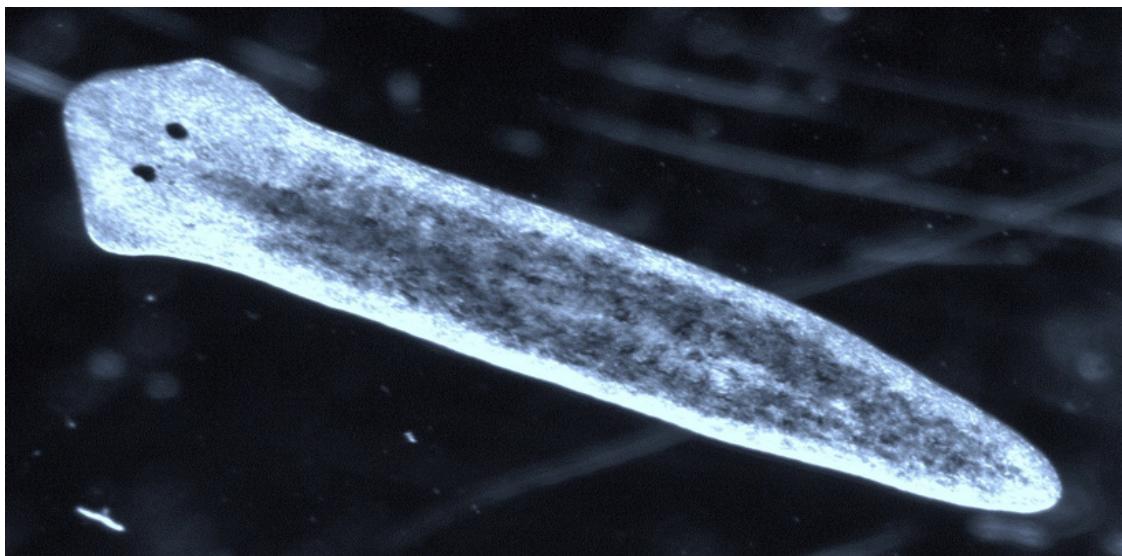
Let's learn more about what is in the pond. We can look at microorganisms (very small living things) through the microscope to see what they look like. Look through microscopes at the samples: spirogyra (green algae), planaria (flatworms) and paramecium.

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Microscope 1: Spirogyra (green algae)

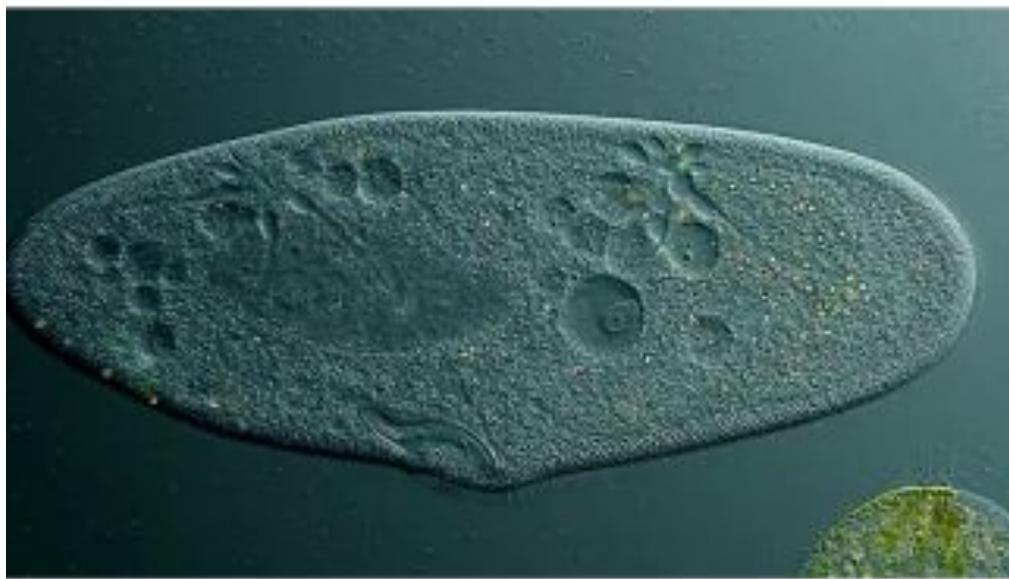


Microscope 2: Planaria (flatworms)



Microscope 3: Paramecium

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Evidence 5: Producer, Consumer, Decomposer

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It would be helpful to know what kind of living things are in the pond. The video explains what producers, consumers and decomposers are. This helps us to understand more about what the living things are in the pond and what they need to survive.



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Producers Consumers

Decomposers