

## Wet Mount of Pond Water

Most natural water sources contain an abundant and vibrant community of living organisms. It is common to see bacteria, protozoans, arthropods, algae and hydra. Most of these pose no health risk or concern to the people sharing this important natural resource.

1. Obtain a clean slide and cover slip.
2. Use the pipet provided with the pond water to remove a small sample. To remove the sample, slightly squeeze the bulb of the pipet, move the pipet tip near any solid material (sticks, grass, rocks, or debris) and release the bulb. A small amount of fluid should be in the pipette. Place the tip of the pipette over the slide and squeeze the bulb to release one drop of pond water. Any remaining fluid can be returned to the beaker of pond water sample or disposed of according to your instructor's directions.
3. Cover the wet mount with a coverslip. Remember to angle the coverslip as you drop it onto the wet mount.
4. Place the slide on the microscope stage. Use the scanning objective to find debris on the slide. Debris can serve as a food source for many of the microscopic forms of life in pond water, therefore debris in water is often an easy place to find life forms. Sharpen the image using the fine adjustment knobs. Adjust the lighting of the image. Lighting is particularly important when viewing unstained living organisms. Too much light will bleach out the image.
5. Rotate the 10X objective over the stage. Fine adjust the image. Adjust the light levels.
6. Rotate the 40X objective over the stage. Fine adjust the image and adjust the light levels. Draw\*\* (in color) at least 2 organisms observed in the sample in the circles below. Label at least 3 structures in your drawing. This may be a challenge because the organisms may be moving very quickly. Describe the organisms below the circles. Try to identify the organisms from a provided key or by searching online (microscopic pond life is a good search term).
7. Wash and reuse this slide and coverslip.

\*\*It is important when drawing images viewed through the microscope that you exaggerate the size of the structures. Drawing what you see exactly, the same size as you see it, is not helpful when you are trying to remember this slide in the future.

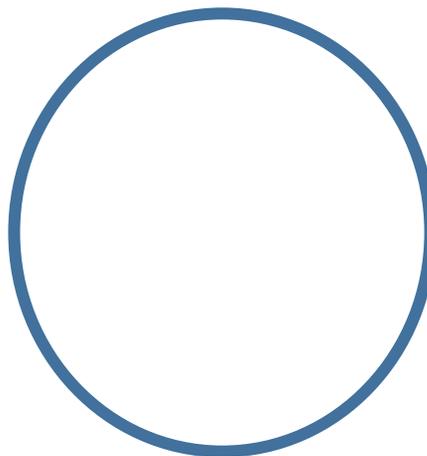
Pond life (400X)

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

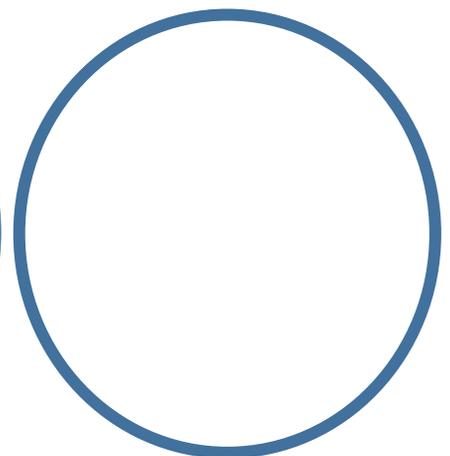
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