

Name _____

Date _____



It's a Small World After All!
(Pond Microcosms)
Family Page



Question: What can pond microcosms teach us about biodiversity and pollution?

What's Happening in Class?

We are using pond microcosms to explore biodiversity and pollution. Classroom activities related to this investigation focus on recognizing the diversity of pond producers and consumers, and understanding the effects of pollution on pond life. For more specific information on this lesson, visit the *Science for Ohio* website at www.environmentaleducationohio.org and click on the *Pond Microcosms* inquiry.

What Can We Do at Home?

- 1) Discuss the following terms and look for examples in and around your home.
Producer: an organism that makes its own food. The most common producers are green plants, which transform the sun's energy into food through photosynthesis.
Consumer: an organism which must eat to get energy. Animals are consumers.
Biodiversity: richness and variety of living organisms
Pollution: waste products that damage an ecosystem
- 2) Visit a local pond and create microcosms for study at home. Be sure to return pond water to the pond when finished.
- 3) Consult the following resources to learn more about ponds and microcosms.

Books

Pond Life by George K. Reid, Ph.D.
ISBN 0-307-24017-7

Pond Water Zoo by Peter Loewer
ISBN 0-689-31736-0

World Wide Web

BrainPOP.com, an award-winning site, offers original animated movies that answer kids' questions about health, science, and technology. The site provides an interactive quiz while movies load. Visit the site and watch their two-minute air pollution movie. Contrast the effects of air pollution in this movie with water pollution observations from the microcosms and pollution investigation. Requires Macromedia Shockwave.
<http://www.brainpop.com>