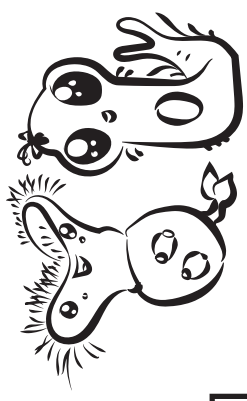


# Pond Water Creatures

Cell Biology – observe algae cells, protists, and more  
Use the identification guide to identify your discoveries.



**Bacteria**

Single celled dots or strands. You will see bacteria as the tiniest specks.



**Algae**

Single-celled or multicellular. They are green photosynthesizers. Spirogyra forms single celled strands. Diatoms have tiny hairs for mobility and hard cell walls made of silica.



**Protozoa**

Single-celled eukaryotic organisms. Protists are very diverse and are grouped into their own Kingdom. They commonly have with tiny hairs that help them swim.



**Rotifers**

Specialized, multicellular invertebrates. They have up to five eyes, a large round mouth covered in flagella for swimming and catching food. Has one foot. Has social behaviours.



**Gastrotrichs**

Microscopic, hairy, wormlike animals. The majority live on and between particles of sediment or on other submerged surfaces on the bottom of lakes and oceans



**Worms**

Thin, long, wriggly, microscopic worms. Bristle worms have segmented bodies, Nematodes do not. Amphileptus looks like a slug.



**Arthropods**

Multicellular crustaceans with jointed legs and antennae. They lay eggs. *Copepods and Ostracods are very common in pond water.*



**Amoebas**

Unicellular blob-like creatures with no cell wall. When they move, they look like oozing liquid. They are extremely small and may just barely be visible.



**Insect Larvae**

Larval forms of insects can be microscopic and have a wide variety of forms. They may be segmented, have legs and joints, or they may be worm-like.

Identify your critters, then draw and describe your discoveries.

**STEMTaught**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Thinking and discussion:

You will love looking at drops of water from different places! Discovering tiny microscopic creatures for the first time for yourself can be as exciting as any first discovery. The first microscopic organisms were discovered in 1670, and we have only just begun to understand their importance to our lives and the environments that we live in. Did you see any unicellular organisms or strands of algae cells? Look carefully for the smallest creatures in your water droplets.