

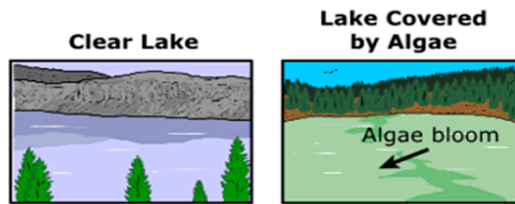
Sample Grade Five Science Performance Task

Passage

Our science class is learning about the environment. Today, we are going to observe some ways that living and non-living things affect each other in a lake habitat. We will explore plants, animals, and water.



Many lakes have clear water that may appear blue. A clear blue lake has few plants growing in the water. Other lakes appear green. The green color is caused by a type of plant called algae. Algae can cover the water's surface. A large amount of algae on a lake is called an algae bloom. A lake with an algae bloom is not healthy and has poor water quality.

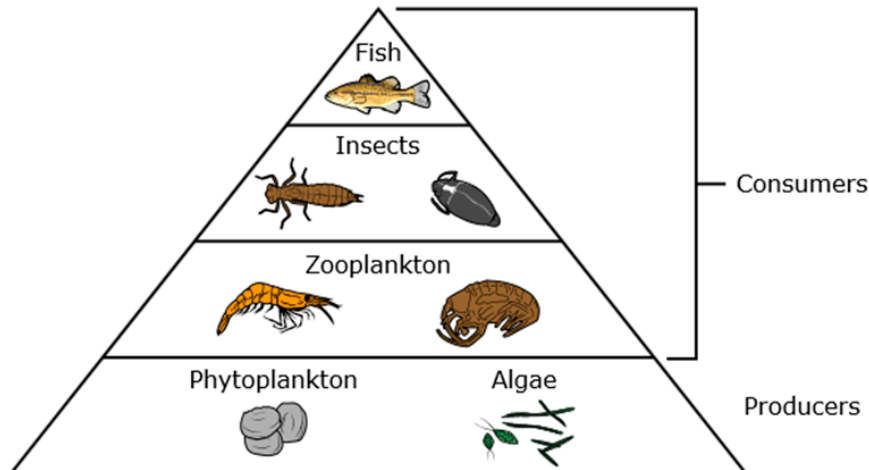


The algae bloom will keep animals from living in the lake. This occurs because when algae die, they decompose. The decomposers use oxygen in the water to break down the dead algae. Oxygen used by decomposers is not available for fish and other water animals that need oxygen to survive.

One cause for an algae bloom is when a lot of nitrogen flows into the lake. The nitrogen often comes from fertilizers that farmers put on their fields. The nitrogen can also come from cattle waste. The fertilizers run off the land during rainfall.

Constructed Response Item

The energy pyramid shows different organisms in a healthy lake. Explain how an energy pyramid can show how matter flows among organisms.



Sample Grade Five Performance Task: Drag and Drop—Multiple Section

Based on what you know about algae blooms, drag the steps to place them in the correct order in the model.

