

**QUICK LAB**    **OBSERVING****Life Under a Microscope**

Using a microscope properly is an important skill for many biologists. In this lab, you will review microscope skills by examining a drop of water from the surface of a local pond.

**PROBLEM** What types of organisms can be found in pond water?

**PROCEDURE**

1. Make a wet mount slide. Place a drop of pond water in the center of a microscope slide and carefully put a cover slip over the water. For more information on making a wet mount, see page R8.
2. View the pond water sample under low power on the microscope. Use the coarse focus knob to bring the sample into focus. Draw and label any organisms that you see in the sample.
3. View the slide under high power. Use the fine focus knob to bring portions of the sample into focus. Draw and label any organisms, including details of their structures, that you see in the sample.

**ANALYZE AND CONCLUDE**

1. **Connect** Describe how organisms in the sample exhibit the characteristics of living things.
2. **Compare and Contrast** Make a table to compare and contrast the characteristics of organisms in the sample of pond water.

**MATERIALS**

- 1 drop pond water
- eyedropper
- microscope slide
- cover slip
- microscope

