# Biodiversity Loss from Eutrophication

The picture below clearly shows how humans can affect water quality by dumping treated water from sewage back into ponds and lakes. The increased nutrients in this treated water can cause eutrophication in ponds and lakes. In this activity, you will explain the causes of eutrophication, the process of eutrophication and how it relates to biodiversity loss in aquatic ecosystems.



Directions: Fill in the blanks below with the correct words and phrases.

Eutrophication occurs _____. As the nutrients _____, algae multiplies and grows at a rate faster than the natural rate. Eventually, the algae grows so large that it covers _____. One effect of this mass growth is that _____ is blocked from entering the body of water, which deprives other aquatic plants from the necessary resource that it needs to survive. Once these plants die, _____. Additionally, _____ take up more oxygen as they decompose. This _____ impacts the aquatic animals living in the environment by _____. These animals can then suffocate and die. This would _____ the biodiversity in the environment because species of plants and animals in the area are dying.

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