



Ms. Hoitsma's Third Grade  
The Park School of Baltimore  
Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013

What we did:

Collecting:

Our class did practice sampling to learn how to collect samples from our school pond. We used nets, looked under leaves and rocks, and used a rope to collect a bucket full of water from the patio that goes out a bit over our pond. We also observed how a Secchi disk can help us measure how clear the water is.



Counting:

The samples that we looked at in the class were collected by Mrs. Jacoby that morning. We did collect samples but another third grade class counted the samples that we collected. When we got the samples in the classroom, we observed them and then took out the macro-invertebrates using eye-droppers or small nets. We organized them into ice-cube trays so they would be easier to identify and count. We also put some into petri dishes and looked at them under the stereomicroscope so that we could see them a bit more clearly. Then we put our totals onto the identification sheets. We had to use another ID key to describe our leech. The samples were returned to the pond later in the day.



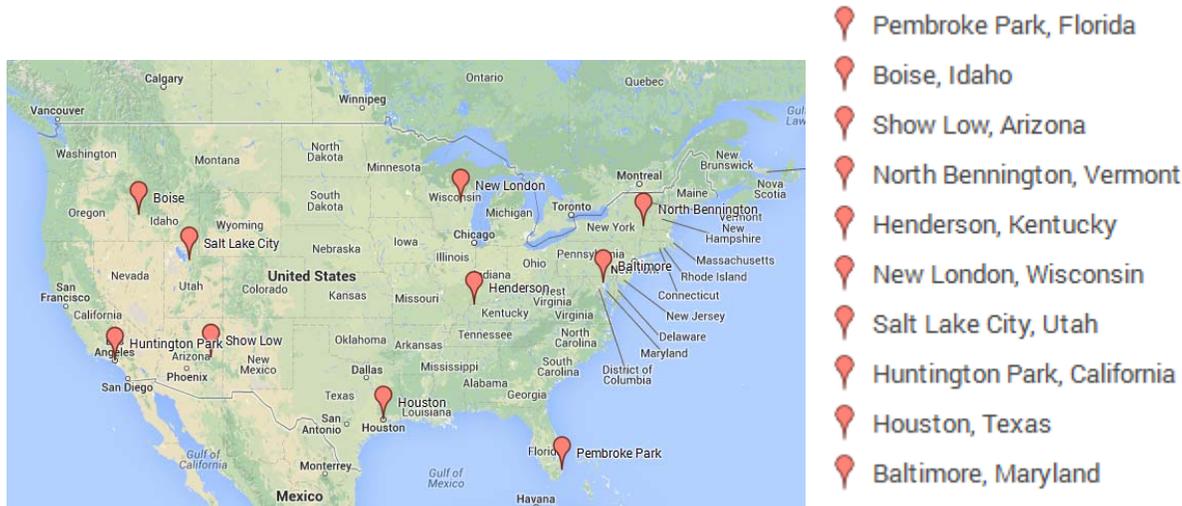
## Our results:

### 3H sampling numbers

Macroinvertebrates	Numbers in our sample
Mosquito Larvae	0
Midge Larvae	6
Crayfish	1
Mayfly Larvae	6
Snails and lots of eggs	13
Water Fleas	200+
Water Beetles	25
Dragonfly larvae	8
Leech	1

Thinking about the Hypothesis:

Once we knew what type of macro-invertebrates were in our pond we thought about the hypothesis. All fifteen people in our class agreed with the hypothesis "we think some of the organisms will be the same but there will definitely be some differences".



We found some of the different schools on a map and thought that some of the things listed below would have an effect on what would grow in the pond:

- there are different temperatures around the country. Some places are warmer and some are colder.
- some places are closer to the ocean and, because the ocean affects temperature, different places will have different types of seasons - some will freeze and some will not.

- the way a pond drains might affect what's there; if something drains and refills up or if something doesn't drain, but just stays the same.
- maybe if there are different habitats there will be different organisms. We think each type of organism has certain things that it needs to eat and the food organisms have their own habitat. The organisms must depend on their habitat to survive, and must evolve/change over time in order to survive.
- ponds might evaporate at different speeds so ponds in some areas might get bigger or smaller more quickly than in other places.