

Our Trip to the Mill River

By Ted K.

Essential Question: Would micro-organisms found in the Mill River be similar to those micro-organisms found in other parts of the world?

Hypothesis: Our class decided that micro-organisms found in the northeastern part of the United States would be different depending on the climate of the other participants.

On May 9, 2007, Mr. Maz's class went to the Mill River in Fairfield, Connecticut. Fairfield is located in the northeast part of the United States. We experience all four seasons including spring, summer, fall and winter. We learned many things about the plants and animals, like where different species live and their history. For example, did you know that some plants came over from different countries and took over other plants? These types of plants are called invaders. Also, did you know that certain organisms live in certain spots depending on the fast or slow waters? We discovered that most microorganisms were found in the slow water areas.

We saw lots of wildlife at the river including birds, animals, and insects. One fish we saw and is native to our river was the alewife. It has long, silver sides and smooth coin shaped scales. Another animal we saw was the wood duck. The male has a colorful head with blackish/white body.

One other thing we did was collect samples of water from different parts of the stream. We took samples from slow and fast moving water. We then took the samples back to class and inspected them looking for microorganisms. Our class used microscopes and magnifying glasses.

Some of the organisms found in our water included:

Micro-organisms	Quantity
Water fleas	10
Spirogyra	2
Damsel fly nymph (not micro)	1
rotifer	3
copepods	2
Nematodes (round worms)	6
Green Algae	12

