



Stretch Task **EUTROPHICATION SEQUENCING CARDS**

One table per pupil, as required. Pupils can number them or cut them and order them.

Light blocked The algal bloom is so dense that it blocks sunlight from reaching the aquatic plants below the surface. Without light, photosynthesis cannot occur.	Aquatic plants die The aquatic plants die because they cannot photosynthesise. As they die, they begin to decompose on the riverbed.
Algal bloom The extra nutrients cause algae to multiply rapidly. A thick layer of algae – called an algal bloom – forms on the surface of the water.	Oxygen depletion Oxygen levels in the water drop so low that fish and invertebrates can no longer survive. Large numbers of aquatic organisms die.
Decomposers multiply Decomposing bacteria feed on the dead plant material and multiply rapidly. These bacteria use oxygen from the water as they respire.	Nutrient run-off Fertilisers and livestock slurry from nearby farmland wash into the river during rainfall. The water becomes enriched with nutrients – especially nitrogen and phosphorus.

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