

Teacher _____ Date _____ Name _____

WORKSHOP #5
PREDATOR/PREY INTERACTIONS
DATA SHEET

EXPERIMENT—*My predator is:* fish salamander larva adult newt
(circle one)

STEP 1: OBSERVATION OF PREY

Observe the prey (zooplankton) with your partner and record your observations below.

DESCRIBE the size(s) and color(s) of your zooplankton. _____

Do you think that you have more than one species? _____

Do you think that you have more than one life stage? _____

STEP 2: MEET YOUR PREDATOR

SLOWLY and GENTLY take the covering off of your observation chamber. Observe your predator for a few minutes.

What is your predator? _____

How does it behave? Does it swim all the time? Does it sit on the bottom? Does it float in the water?

STEP 3: ADD THE PREY TO THE CHAMBER

- A. Take the lid off of your vial of zooplankton.
- B. SLOWLY and GENTLY add zooplankton to the predator tank.
- C. Observe how both predator and prey react for a few minutes.

Did your predator notice the prey? _____

Does the predator move toward the prey, or stay still? _____

Other observations _____

STEP 4: COVER THE CHAMBER WHILE YOU DO ACTIVITY 2. You will return to **Step 5** later.

(OVER)

STEP 5: COLLECT DATA ON SURVIVING PREY

- A. When you are instructed to do so, uncover the chamber.
- B. OBSERVE the predator and prey for a few minutes.
- C. You and your partner should each COUNT the number of remaining zooplankton. If necessary you can use a small net to scoop some of the prey out to count.
- D. REPEAT your counts a **SECOND** time to see if you get the same number of surviving zooplankton.
- E. RECORD your data below.
- F. SUM your counts and DIVIDE BY 4 to get the estimated **AVERAGE** number of surviving zooplankton.

Data Summary Table

Number of Zooplankton												
My 2 estimates				My partner's 2 estimates								
1 st count	+	2 nd count	+	1 st count	+	2 nd count	=	Sum	Divide by 4	=	Average	
	+		+		+		=		÷ 4	=		
	+		+		+		=		÷ 4	=		
	+		+		+		=		÷ 4	=		

Work space to calculate your average: