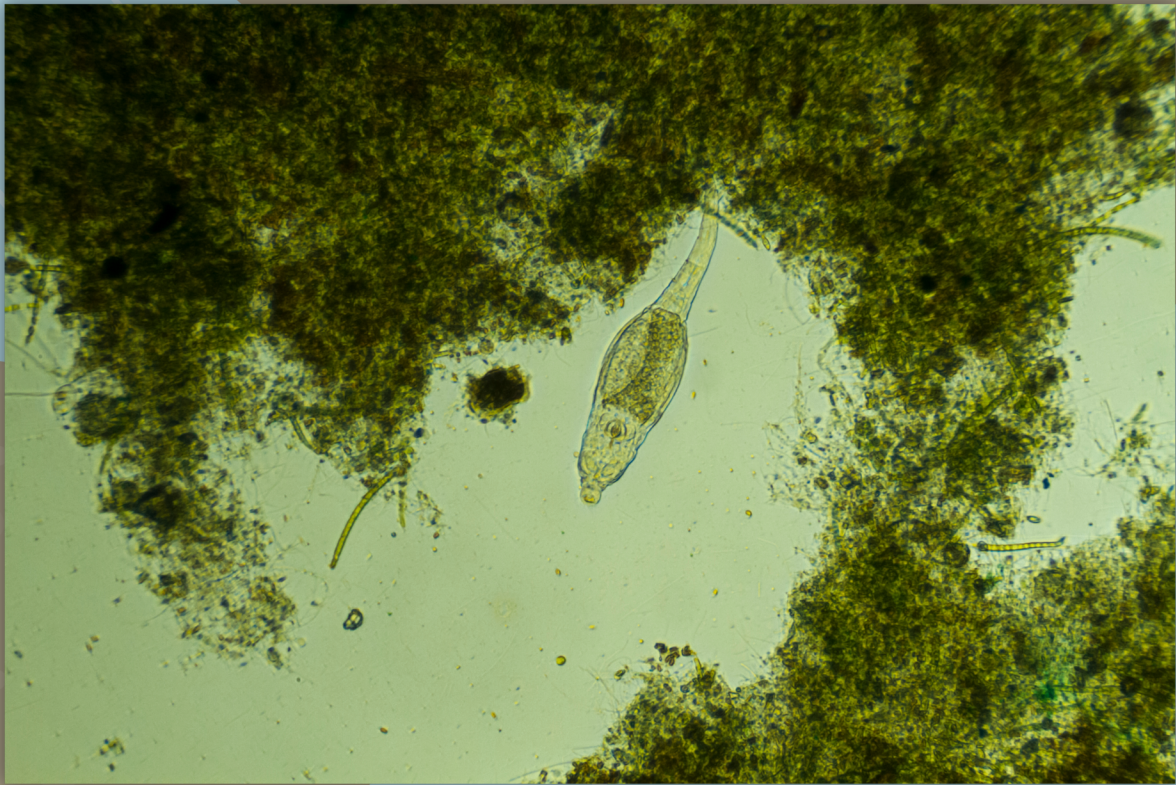


What Are Microorganisms, and Why Do They Matter?



Microorganisms are tiny living things that you can't see without a microscope.

They live in the Bitterroot River and help keep the water clean and the river healthy!

What Do Microorganisms Do?



Some microorganisms break down waste and dead plants, like little cleaners for the river. Others are food for fish, insects, and other tiny creatures.

Why the River Needs Them:



Even though they're super small, microorganisms help the whole river ecosystem work!

If the water gets too polluted, many of them can't survive—and that affects everything else.

Fun Fact:

One drop of river water can hold thousands of microorganisms!