

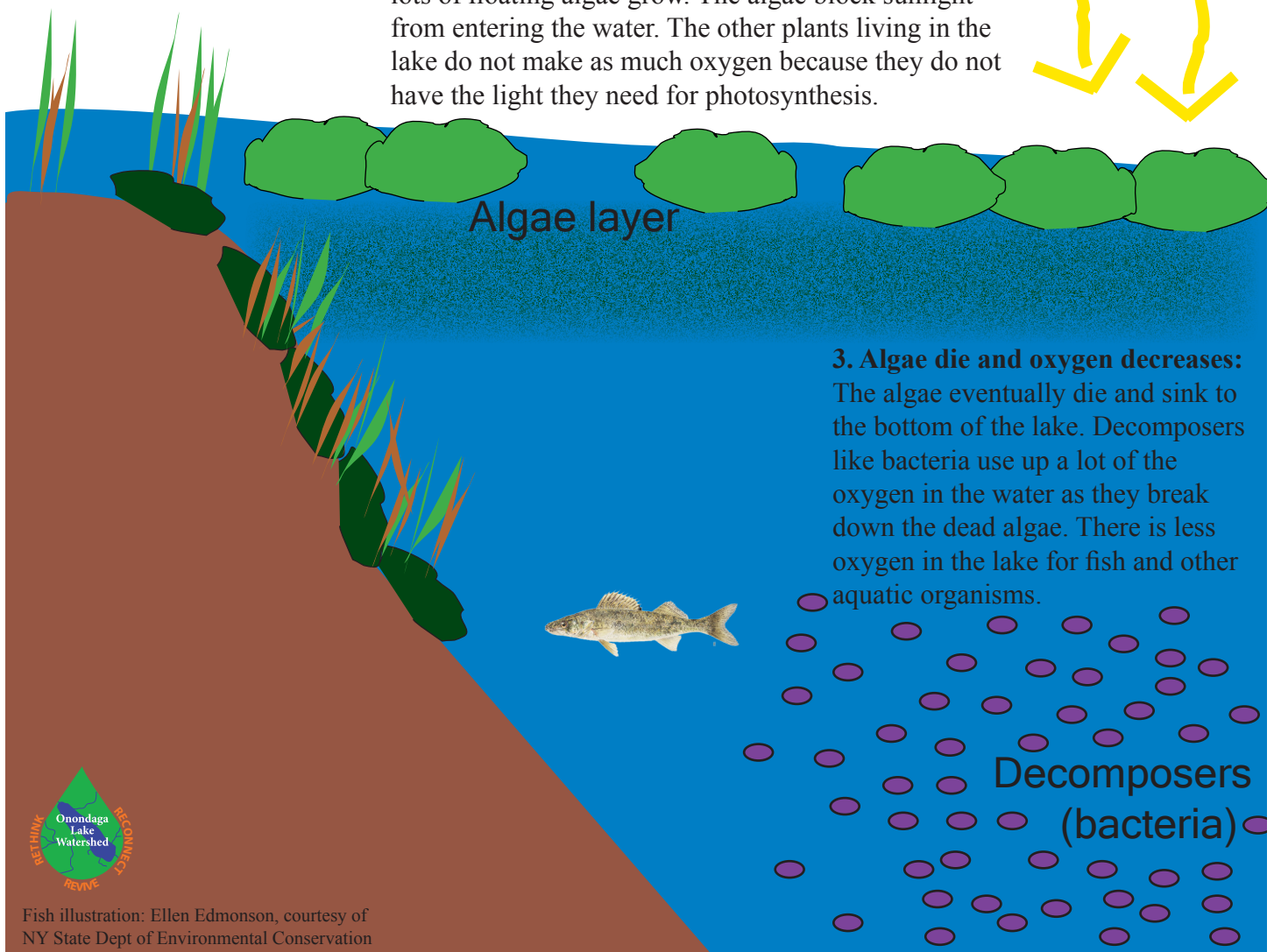
# What is Eutrophication?

## 1. Nutrient pollution:

Human wastewater enters creeks through combined sewer overflows. The wastewater contains nitrogen and phosphorous. When the polluted creek water reaches the lake, it increases the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous in the lake.

**2. Algae increase and oxygen decreases:** When there is too much nitrogen and phosphorous in the water, lots of floating algae grow. The algae block sunlight from entering the water. The other plants living in the lake do not make as much oxygen because they do not have the light they need for photosynthesis.

SUNLIGHT



## 3. Algae die and oxygen decreases:

The algae eventually die and sink to the bottom of the lake. Decomposers like bacteria use up a lot of the oxygen in the water as they break down the dead algae. There is less oxygen in the lake for fish and other aquatic organisms.

Decomposers  
(bacteria)

