Macrophytes and Benthic Communities

This week you will be cataloguing the species diversity of the macrophyte community and the benthic community of Linsley pond. You will prepare a species/group list of organisms present, but your synthesis assignment this week will involve making hypotheses and doing a literature review to support your claims.

What you will need:
Field notebook
Macrophyte and benthic invert keys
Sieves
Eckman grab
Rake
Sorting trays

Collecting data:
1) One group will row to the far side of Linsley pond and the other will remain near the dock to capture two different areas of diversity.
2) For macrophyte samples, you will use a rake (or similar) to gather the macrophytes along a transect. You will gather these for identification later.
3) While the far side team rows back, the near shore team will use the Eckman grab to take a benthic sample and begin sorting it using the sieves.
4) The far side group will help sort and identify contents of the benthic samples.
5) You will prepare a species/group list of members of each community: the macrophytes and the benthos.

Synthesis assignment:
1) For this week, you will be preparing a short paper (1-2 pages single-spaced).
2) Choose a group of organisms we have talked about that are in the Macrophyte or Benthic community and hypothesize why or how you think they have diversified or maintained over evolutionary time or have been shaped by their environment.
3) Use at least 5 sources of primary literature to support your claim.