

Name _____

Protists: Friends or Foes? Debunking the Myths

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Protists contribute to nutrient cycling in ecosystems by decomposing organic matter, releasing nutrients for other organisms to use, and producing oxygen through photosynthesis.
2. Certain types of algae are used in biotechnology and pharmaceuticals because they produce compounds with potential medical applications, such as antibiotics and anti-inflammatory agents.
3. One method of controlling the spread of malaria is through vector control measures, such as using insecticide-treated bed nets to prevent mosquito bites and spraying insecticides to reduce mosquito populations.
4. Protists like Euglena could contribute to sustainable energy production by producing biofuels through photosynthesis, offering an alternative to fossil fuels and reducing carbon emissions.

