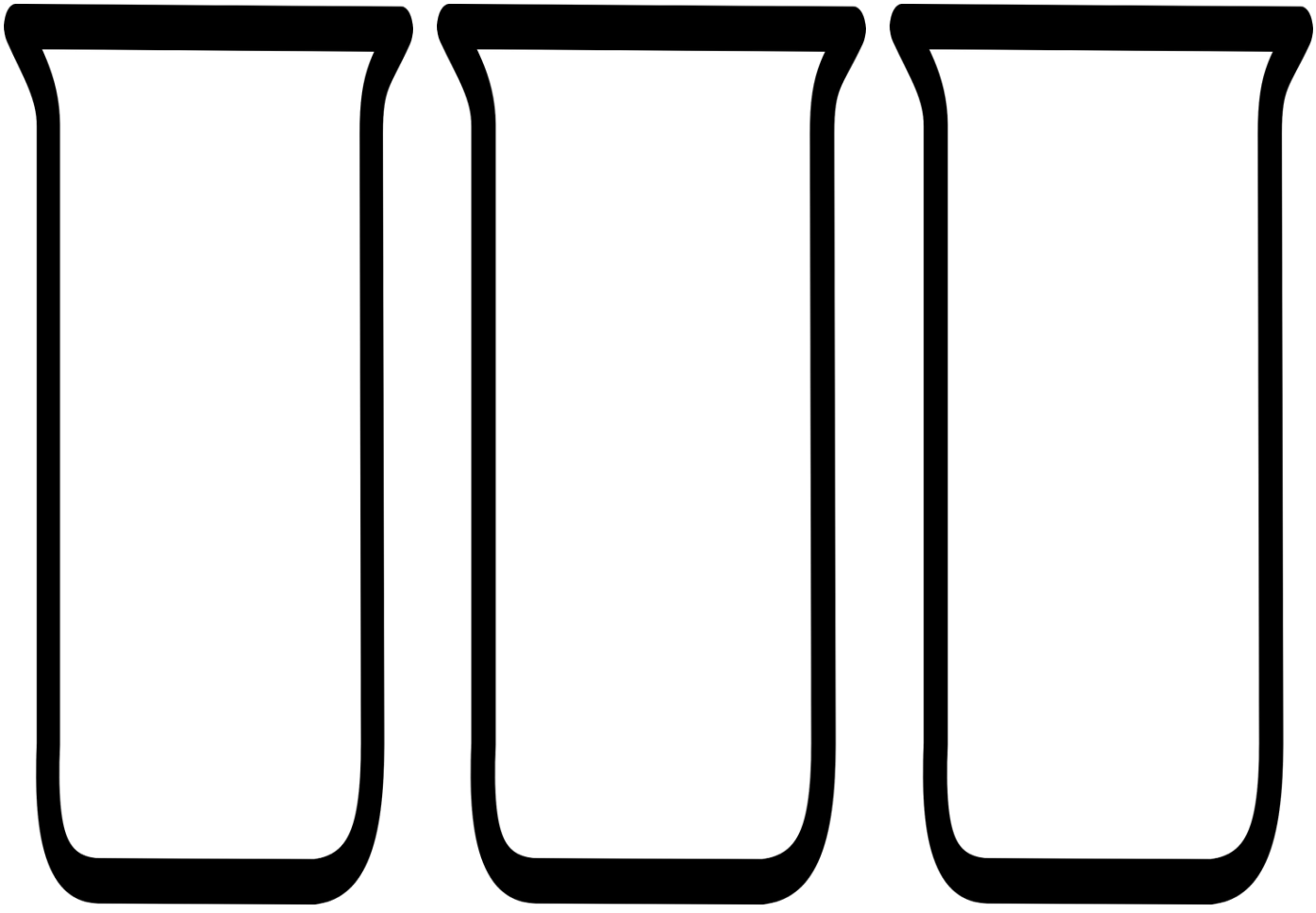
What Conditions Encourage Leaf Litter Decomposition?

Name: _____

In this scientific experiment you will have one **control group** and two **treatment groups**.
A **control group** is the object of the experiment that is observed alone without any outside influence. Here, your control group is the collected dirt, leaf litter, and any microbes already in the sample. When other factors are introduced to the experiment, in this case water and isopods, it is considered a **treatment group**. We are testing to see if any of the introduced factors have an effect on the amount of decomposition that happens during our observation period.

**Draw the three samples at the start of the experiment:**



Control | Isopods | Isopods + Water

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Make a **hypothesis**. How do you think the introduced factors will impact leaf litter decomposition? *If I add* _____ *to the leaf litter, then* _____.

Record daily observations:

**Day 1:** Where do the isopods like to congregate?

_____

_____

**Day 2:** Have the debris shifted at all?

_____

_____

**Day 3:**

_____

_____

**Day 4:** What do each of the jars smell like?

_____

_____

**Day 5:**

_____

_____

**Day 6:** Which parts of the leaves are decomposing first? Did you expect this?

_____

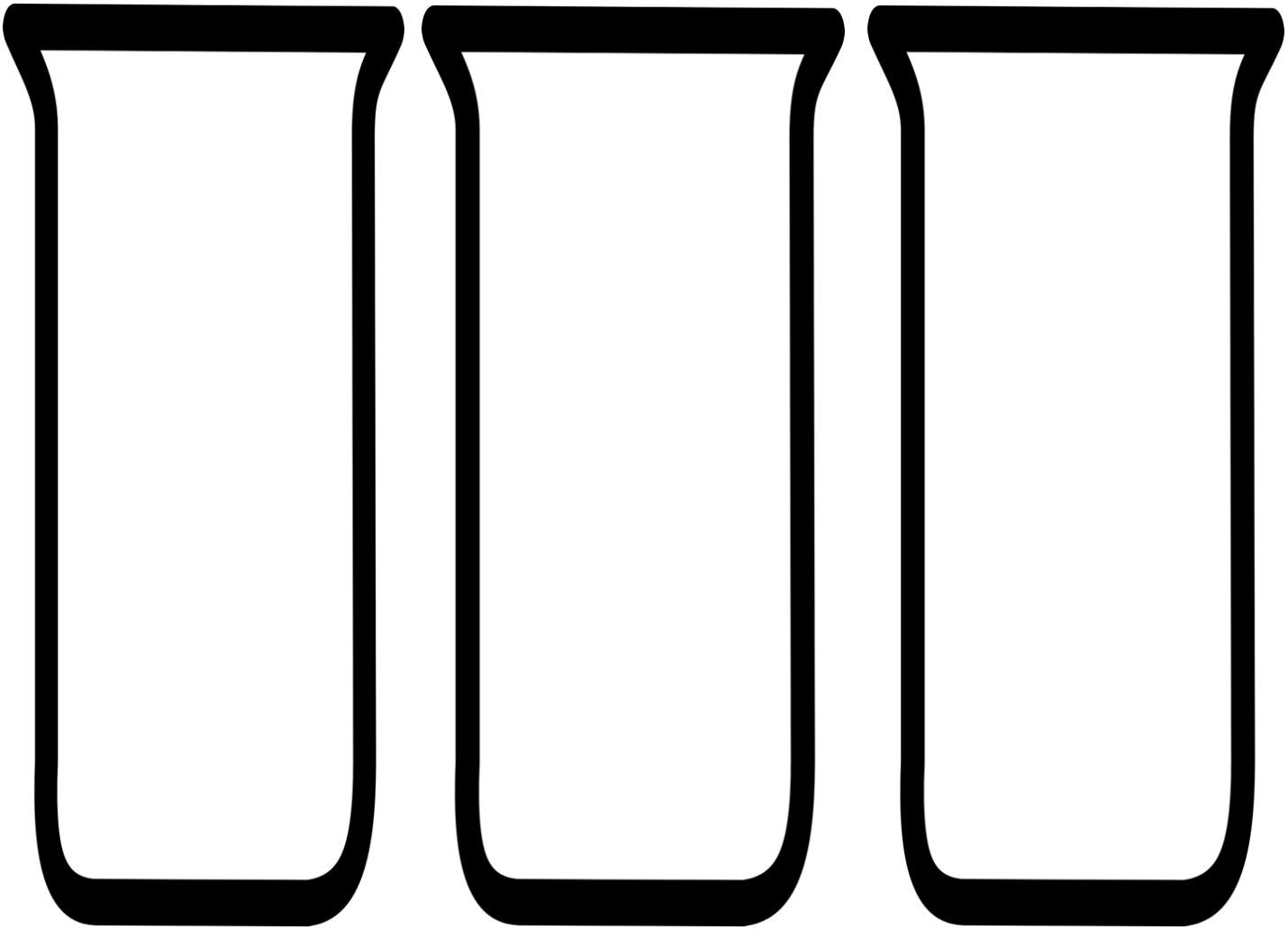
_____

**Day 7:** What other factors do you think would have an effect on decomposition?

_____

_____

**Draw the three samples at the end of the experiment:**



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Revisit your hypothesis. Were your predictions accurate? Why or why not?