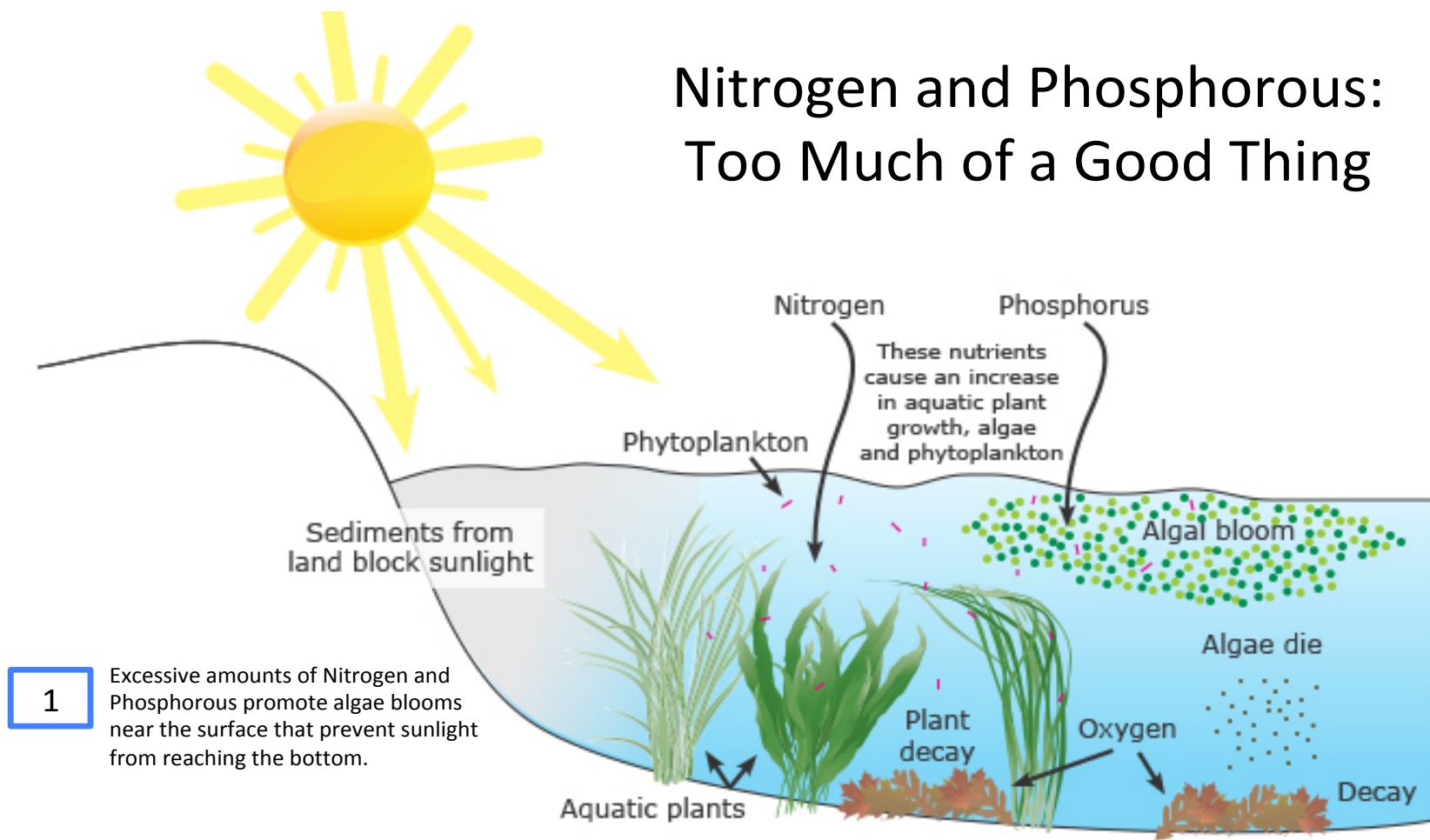


Nitrogen and Phosphorous: Too Much of a Good Thing



1

Excessive amounts of Nitrogen and Phosphorous promote algae blooms near the surface that prevent sunlight from reaching the bottom.

2

Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAVs) dies off, removing an important source of oxygen from the bottom of the water column.

3

When algae blooms die off, the plant matter sinks to the bottom and gets eaten by bacteria. During this process, bacteria use up oxygen as they work overtime to eat the dead algae. This can lead to a quick depletion of oxygen in the water column, creating "dead zones" where crabs and fish cannot survive.