

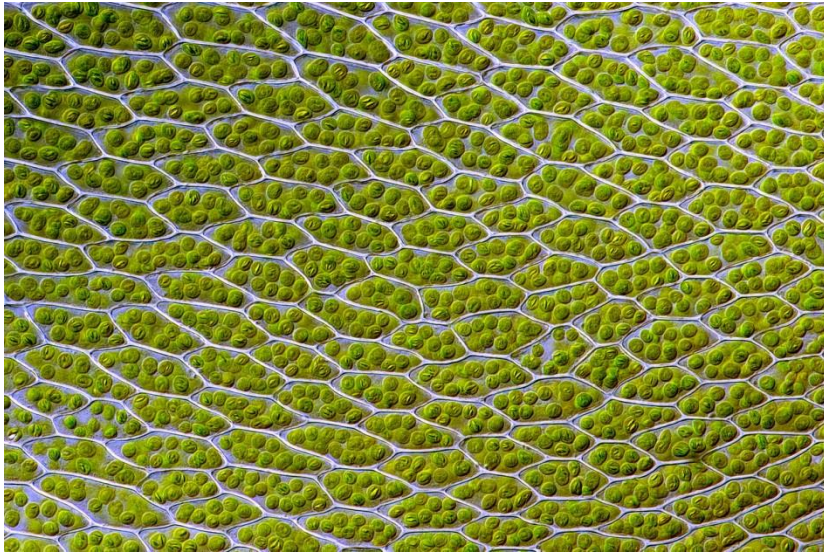
The Nature of Moss



The earliest green terrestrial plants (500My old)

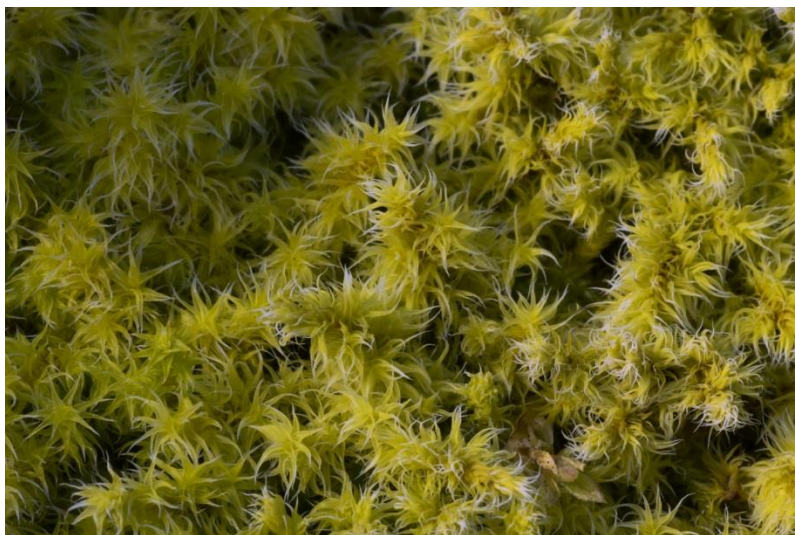
They may have changed the atmosphere and geology, causing a major extinction event: the Ordovician-Silurian Extinction Event - the second largest in earth's history.

Leaves are simple, and one cell thick.



Roots are non-existent, but they have rhizoids for attachment

Stems support leaves, but are not vascularized



Water and nutrients are absorbed directly from the environment

Reproduction is tricky, and only happens in water



Moss plants are male or female, and produce gametes that swim to unite.

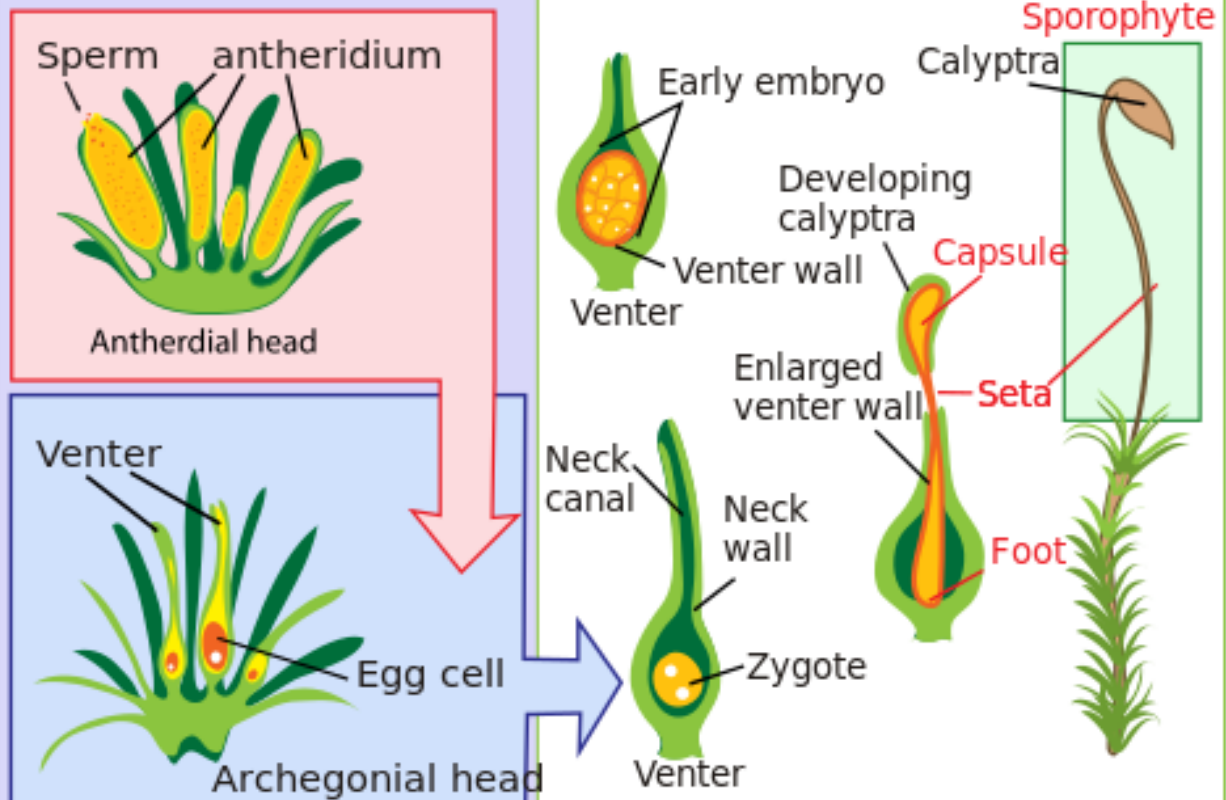
In six months or so, a baby plant grows out of the female parent, made up of a stalk and a capsule containing spores.

The spores are what grow into a new moss plant.

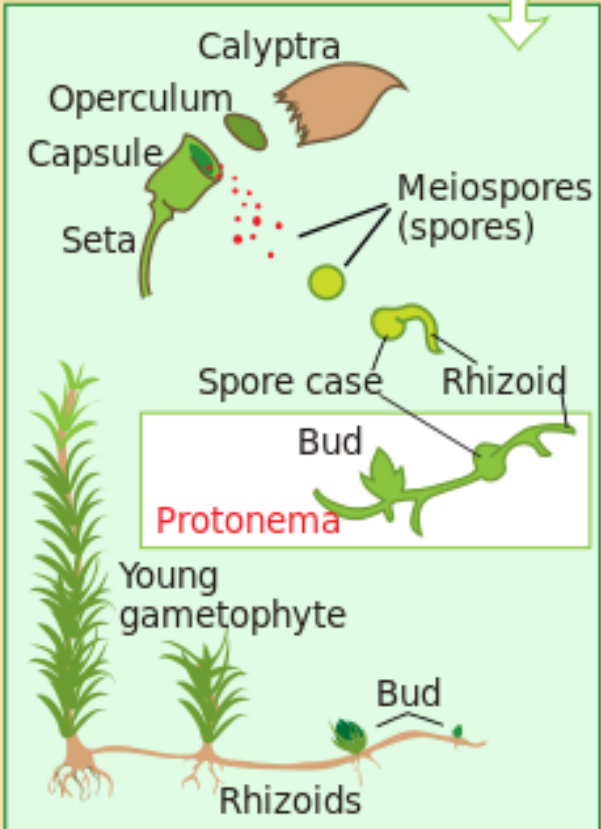
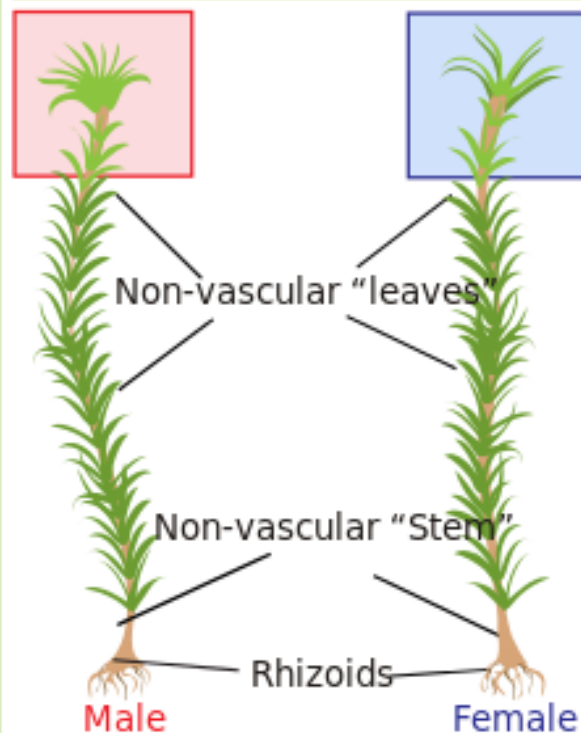
Life Cycle of a Typical Moss

Iron sulphate kills moss (and is in most fertilizers)

Fertilization



Mature Gametophytes



Meiosis