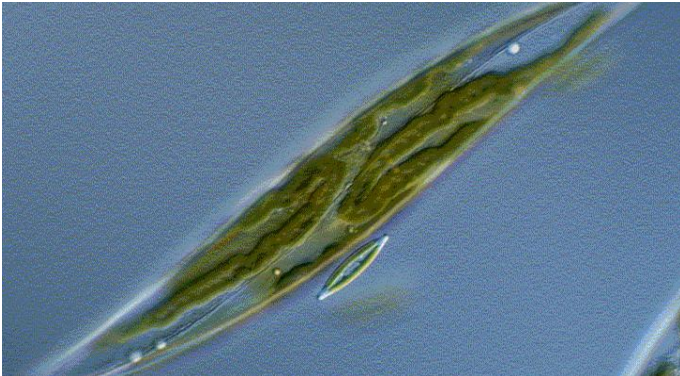


TEACHER MASTER

A Plethora of Plankton



Diatom

Credit: Elkhorn Slough NERR



Polychaete larva

Credit: Elkhorn Slough NERR



Jellyfish

Photographer: Kevin Raskoff

Credit: Hidden Ocean 2005 Expedition: NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration.



Copepod

Photographer: Russ Hopcroft

Credit: Hidden Ocean 2005 Expedition: NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration.



Dinoflagellate

Credit: Minami Himemiya

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Crab larva

Photographer: Jerry Mclelland

Credit: Charleston Bump Expedition 2003. NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration; Dr. George Sedberry, South Carolina DNR, Principal Investigator

STUDENT MASTER

A Plethora of Plankton



Diatom



Polychaete larva



Jellyfish



Copepod



Dinoflagellate



Crab larva

Plankton are floating or drifting plants and animals that live in water. Plankton are usually so small that we can only observe them with a microscope or hand lens. They come in many shapes and sizes, and scientists usually divide them into two main groups, the phytoplankton and the zooplankton.

Phytoplankton are plant-like organisms. Like plants on land, diatoms and other phytoplankton use photosynthesis to turn sunlight, minerals, and carbon dioxide into food. They produce oxygen during the process, which is good thing for us. Phytoplankton are responsible for most of the oxygen in Earth's atmosphere. It's important that phytoplankton stay near the sunlit (or photic) zone where they are able to get enough light to conduct photosynthesis.

Zooplankton are animals. The zooplankton, such as the polychaete larva, eat phytoplankton and other zooplankton. Zooplankton are larger than phytoplankton, but are usually microscopic as well. The zooplankton also need to stay near the photic zone, since that's where most of their food is found.

Questions

Q1. Examine the plankton images above. Circle the zooplankton.

Q2. Place an X above the photosynthetic phytoplankton images.

Q3. What evidence did you use to make your choices?