

STUDENT MASTER**Magnify Your Plankton!**

It's time to take a closer look at some plankton! Use a microscope or good hand lens to take a closer look at a plankton sample. Start with one or two drops of water containing the concentrated results of your plankton tow from Exercise 2 or from some other sample provided by your teacher.

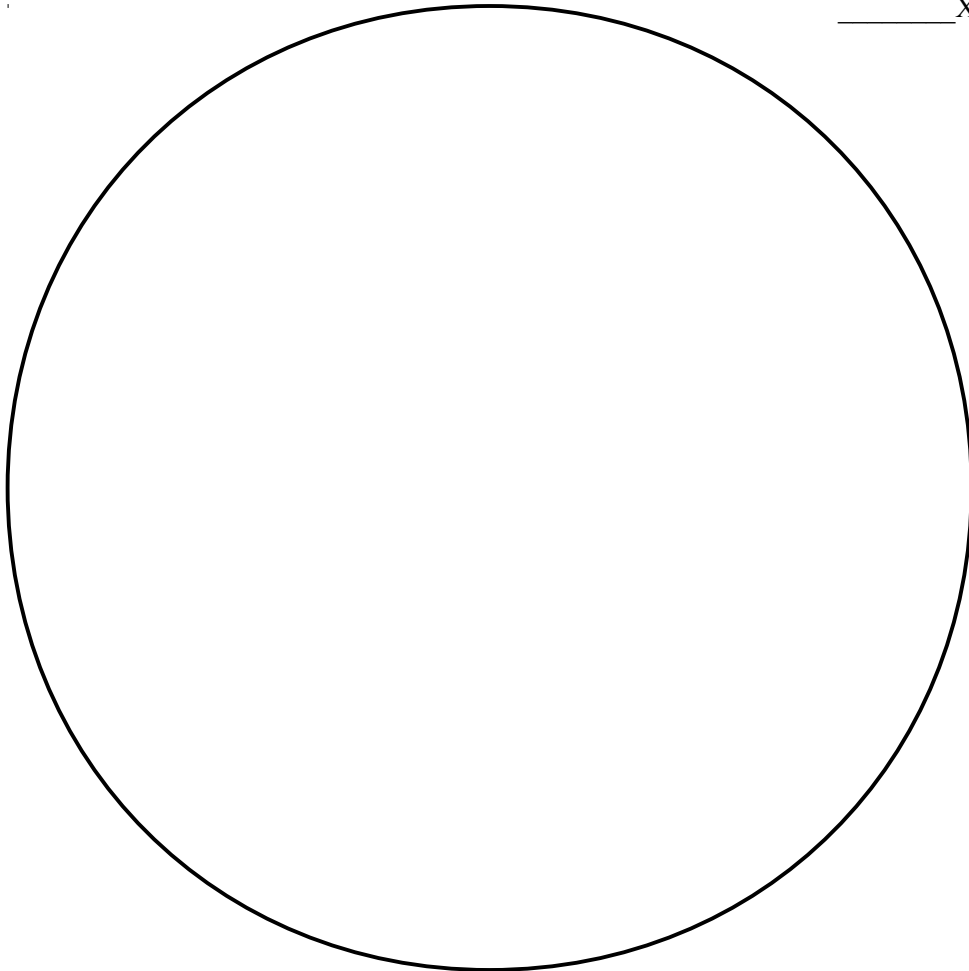
If you want to further concentrate a sample before observing, try putting your larger container of plankton near a bright window or a lamp. Many plankton are phototactic, which means that they are attracted to light. After a minute or two near the light, you should notice many plankton swarming nearer the light source. Don't keep the light on for too long! You don't want the water getting too warm, as that won't be good for the plankton. When you have concentrated some plankton nearer the light, use a medicine dropper to take a sample from the area with the most plankton. Use that sample for your observation.

As you look at the plankton, ask yourself the questions, "What do these plankton need for survival?" and "What features am I able to observe that might help these plankton meet one or more of those needs?" One reminder: These microscopic organisms are often transparent, so look into their bodies and see what parts are actively pumping, contracting, or flowing. Hearts, cilia, flagella, jaws, and circulatory fluids are just some of the moving parts you might see.

Questions

In the circle, sketch one of the plankton you observe.

_____ X magnification



Would you guess that this plankton is plant-like (phytoplankton) or an animal (zooplankton)? Why?

Does this plankton have appendages? (e.g., legs, antennae, claws, etc.)

Does this plankton have eyes?

How does this plankton get around?

Are you able to see special features (adaptations) on this plankton that might help it to meet one or more of its survival needs?