

Kid Scoop®

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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Plankton



Powerful Plankton

Though they are quite tiny, swarms of this plankton are so huge they can be seen from space! Circle every other letter to discover its name.

W K O R C I J L V L
K

How many of me can you find on this page?

They may be teensy, tiny little things, but plankton are hugely important!

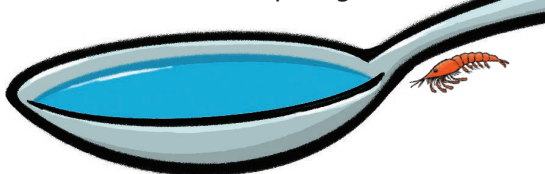
They are hard to see, but these tiny living things in the ocean are important to our entire planet. They are food for many sea creatures. And they make much of the oxygen we breathe.

The word plankton comes from the Greek word *planktos*, which means "drifter." Their name fits because plankton do not swim on their own. Instead, they drift through water. When the water moves, they move with it.



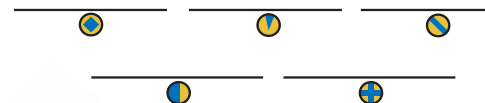
How many plankton are in a teaspoon of water?

How many would you guess? Use the secret code to discover the surprising answer!



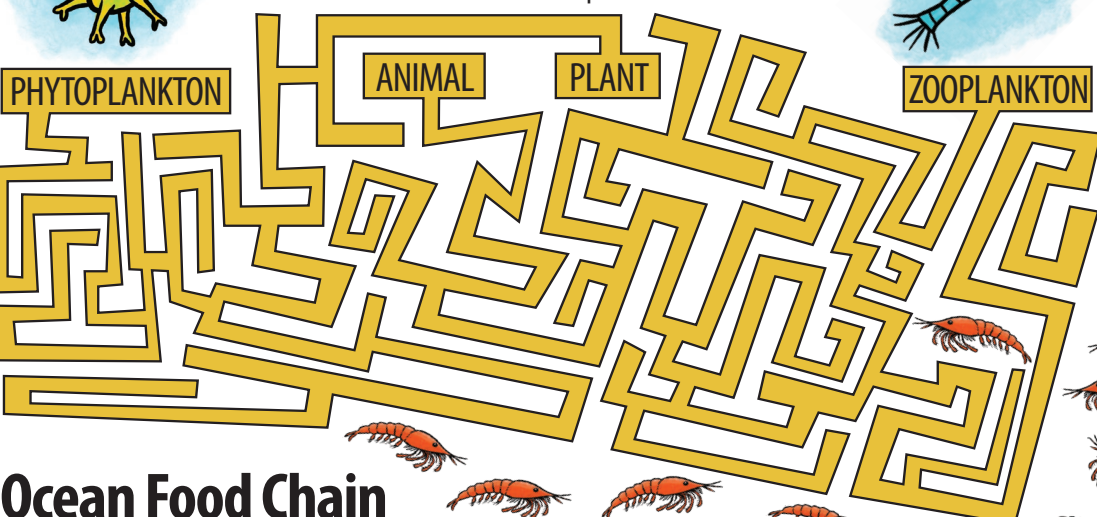
- = SIX
- = MORE
- = LESS
- = HUNDRED
- = MILLION
- = THOUSAND
- = THAN
- = PLANKTON
- = ONE

A teaspoon of water can contain



Are plankton plants or animals?

The answer is both! There are two main types of plankton: **phytoplankton** (fi-toe-plank-ton) and **zooplankton**. Follow the maze to discover which are plants and which are animals.

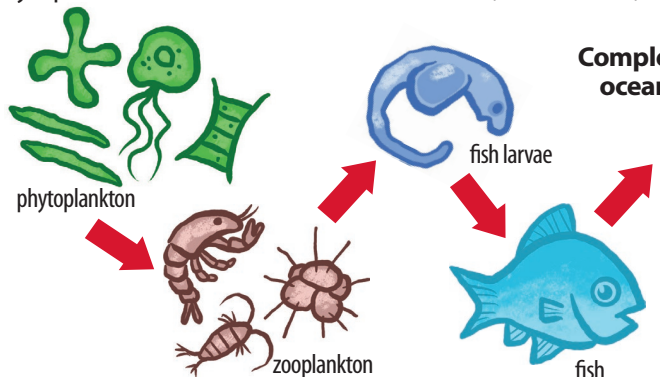


A Breath of Fresh Air

Phytoplankton make more than half of the oxygen in our world. Think of it this way, every time you take four breaths, two of those breaths came from oxygen made by phytoplankton through **photosynthesis**. So even if you live far from the ocean, you depend on it to survive!

Ocean Food Chain

Plankton is made up of tiny, usually one-celled plants and small water animals such as larvae and eggs. Zooplankton and other small marine creatures eat phytoplankton and then become food for fish, crustaceans, and other larger species.



Complete this food chain diagram by drawing an ocean predator (shark, orca, barracuda) here:

Extra! Extra!

PH = F

In English, when the letters **p** and **h** are next to each other, they make an **F** sound.

Words like *phytoplankton*, *phone*, *photograph* and *pharmacy*. Look through the newspaper and find letters to spell each of these words. Glue the letters onto a piece of paper, spelling out each word. Then read each one aloud.

Standards Link: Match letters and sounds to spell words.

Standards Link: Science: Understand how food chains support the life cycles of animals and humans.

Kid Scoop® Puzzler

The world's largest animal, eats up to 16 tons of plankton daily. Ten adult men together would weigh about one ton. So 16 tons of plankton would be equal to the weight of 160 men. Good thing it likes plankton and not people!

Color the spaces with odd numbers blue to reveal the animal's name.

7	3	5	4	2	5	4	8	6	1	8	7	6	7	5	9	6	4
3	4	1	6	4	3	8	4	2	5	6	3	4	3	4	8	8	2
1	5	7	3	6	1	4	8	6	3	4	7	2	5	7	3	8	2
3	6	2	5	8	3	6	8	4	1	2	3	2	3	8	2	6	4
7	5	1	5	2	5	3	5	2	3	5	1	6	7	1	3	2	4
2	4	6	8	6	4	2	4	6	8	4	8	2	6	4	4	8	
6	8	2	6	4	6	4	2	6	4	2	6	2	4	6	8	2	2
5	6	4	2	5	8	3	6	1	2	5	1	7	3	2	5	4	4
3	4	1	8	9	8	7	2	3	8	3	2	4	7	6	3	6	8
1	2	3	6	3	2	5	3	5	2	5	1	3	5	8	5	2	6
7	8	5	4	9	4	1	6	1	6	1	8	4	1	8	1	8	4
3	7	3	3	3	4	3	2	3	4	9	2	6	3	4	9	3	5

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

P	L	A	N	K	T	O	N										
A	N	I	M	A	L	S											
B	R	E	A	T	H	E											
O	X	Y	G	E	N												
C	A	R	B	O	N												
P	L	A	N	E	T												
O	C	E	A	N													
D	R	I	F	T													
W	A	T	E	R													
F	I	S	H														
S	W	I	M														
T	I	N	Y														
F	O	O	D														
S	E	A															

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

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