



Kid Scoop®

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THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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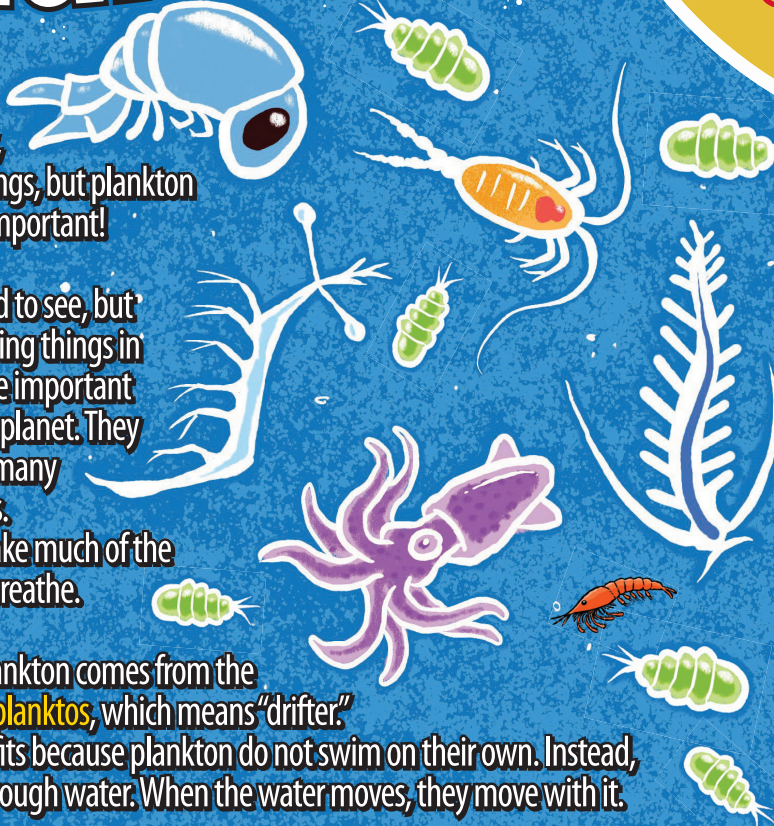
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Plankton

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.



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.

How many of me can you find on this page?



How many plankton are in a teaspoon of water?

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



 = SIX

 = HUNDRED

 = THAN

 = MORE

 = MILLION

 = PLANKTON

 = LESS

 = THOUSAND

 = ONE

A teaspoon of water can contain









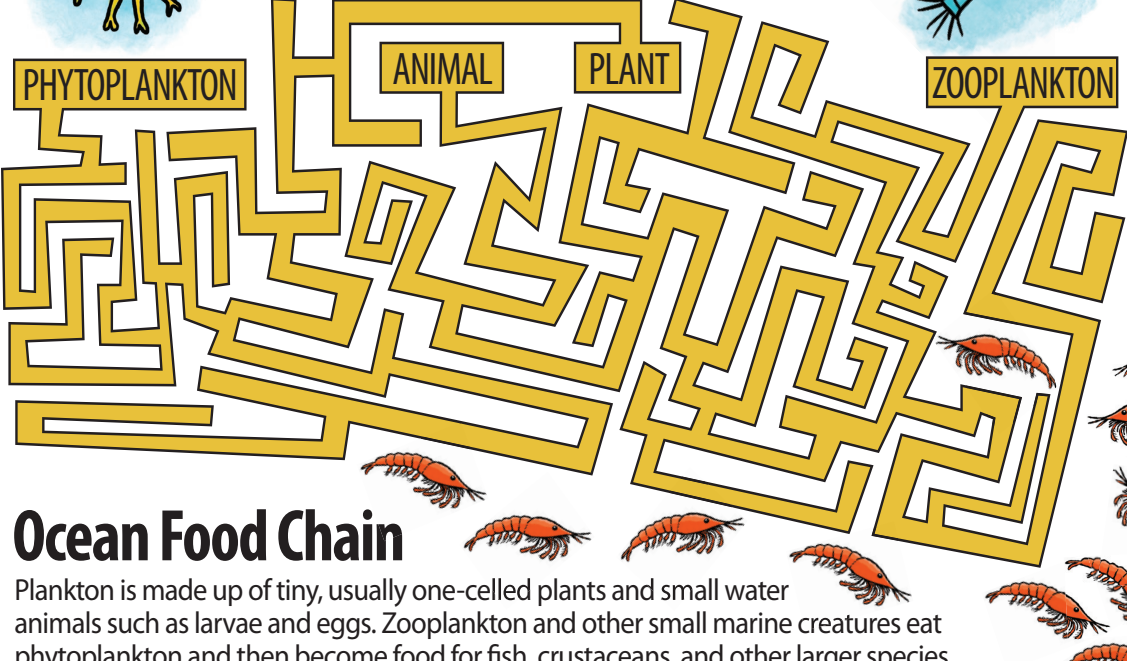




Are plankton plants or animals?

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.



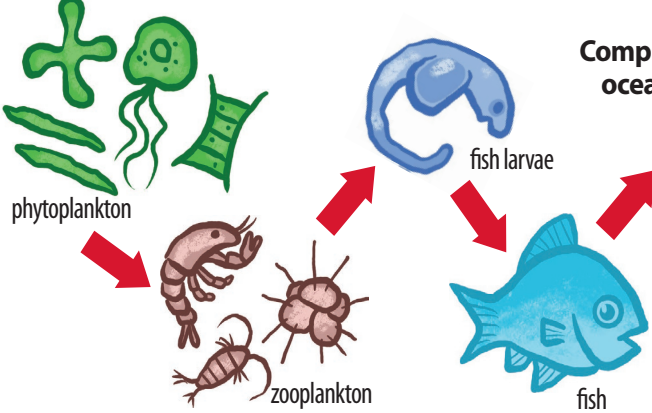


A Breath of Fresh Air

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:

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.



Kid Scoop Together

Plankton Quiz

Can you find the answer to each of these questions? They can all be found on this *Kid Scoop* page!

1. Phytoplankton is a

☐ plant

☐ animal

☐ computer part



2. Zooplankton is an

☐ plant

☐ animal

☐ island



3. What does *planktos* mean in Greek?

☐ swimmer

☐ drifter

☐ boat



4. Where do plankton live?

☐ oceans and lakes

☐ ponds and rivers

☐ all of the above

5. How much of the world's oxygen is made by phytoplankton?

☐ about 7%

☐ 12.4%

☐ more than half



6. How many tons of plankton does a blue whale eat each day?

☐ 16 tons

☐ 100 tons

☐ 232 tons



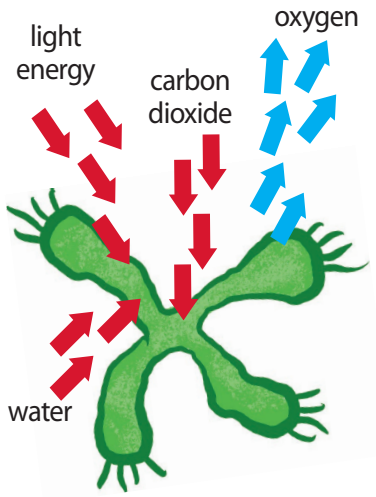
7. How many plankton can be found in 1 tsp. of water?

☐ Between 30-40

☐ About 10,000

☐ More than 1,000,000

Photosynthesis



Like plants on land, phytoplankton use sunlight, water and carbon dioxide to make food and oxygen. This process is called **photosynthesis**.



VOCABULARY BUILDERS



This week's word:

CRUSTACEAN

The noun **crustacean** refers to a water animal whose body is made of segments.

Shrimps, crabs and lobsters are all **crustaceans**.

Try to use the word **crustaceans** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

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
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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?



PLANKTON

ANIMALS

BREATHE

PLANTS

OXYGEN

CARBON

PLANET

OCEAN

DRIFT

WATER

FISH

SWIM

TINY

FOOD

SEA

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

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



FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Expand a Headline



Look through the newspaper for three headlines. Rewrite each one as a complete sentence. See how many more words you can add to make the longest sentence you can.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write complete sentences.



Why didn't the crab share the plankton?

ANSWER: Because he was shellfish.



Write On!

Message in a Bottle

While walking on a beach, you spy a strange bottle with a note inside. What does the note say? What will you do next?