Plankton

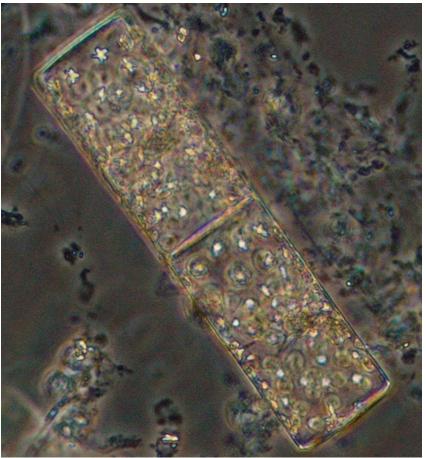


- Mix of small organisms
- Live in water
- Cannot swim against current



HOW CAN WE PREDICT CHANGE IN ECOSYSTEMS? Plankton Smithsonian Science for the Classroom™ © Smithsonian Institution CREDIT: Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

Phytoplankton



Plant-like organisms
 Get energy from the Sun
 Get matter from water and carbon dioxide



HOW CAN WE PREDICT CHANGE IN ECOSYSTEMS? Plankton Smithsonian Science for the Classroom™ © Smithsonian Institution CREDIT: Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

Zooplankton



Animal-like organisms
Young/larval stages of larger animals
Get matter and energy from consuming phytoplankton



HOW CAN WE PREDICT CHANGE IN ECOSYSTEMS? Plankton Smithsonian Science for the Classroom™ © Smithsonian Institution CREDIT: Tim Mullady/Smithsonian Environmental Research Center