

Examining a Natural Plankton Sample

Name _____

Class Period _____

As your first activity in the **PL**ankton **A**nd **N**utrient **S**tudies (PLANS) project, you will become familiar with common types of plankton found in the Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River.

Make a wet mount of one or two drops of plankton sample using a clean microscope slide and cover-slip. (If you are not sure how to make a wet mount, your teacher or a PLANS staff member will show you how.) Scan back and forth across the slide to find all the types of plankton present. For at least five of the plankton that you find, make a neat drawing of the organism and complete a section of the worksheet below:

Specimen 1

Does this organism appear single-celled or multicellular? _____

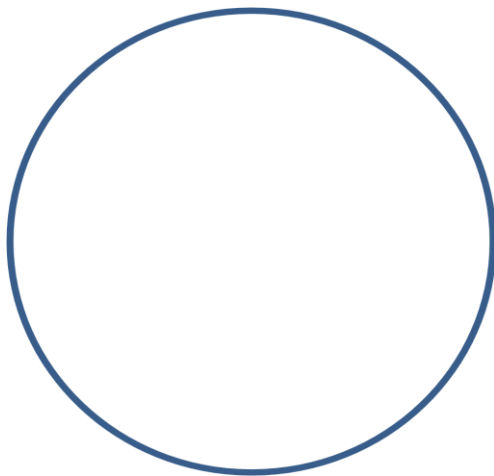
What color is this organism? _____

Does this organism actively swim? _____

Do you believe that this organism can undergo photosynthesis? _____

Using the types of organisms that were shown in the presentation at the beginning of the class period, how would you classify this specimen? _____

What characteristics caused you to classify it this way? _____



Neatly draw the organism in the circle to the left.

Specimen 2

Does this organism appear single-celled or multicellular? _____

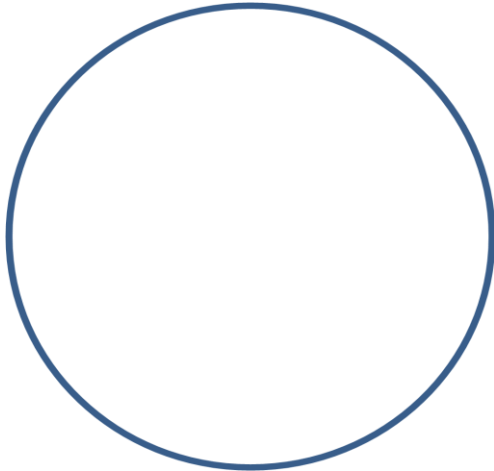
What color is this organism? _____

Does this organism actively swim? _____

Do you believe that this organism can undergo photosynthesis? _____

Using the types of organisms that were shown in the presentation at the beginning of the class period, how would you classify this specimen? _____

What characteristics caused you to classify it this way? _____



Neatly draw the organism in the circle to the left.

Specimen 3

Does this organism appear single-celled or multicellular? _____

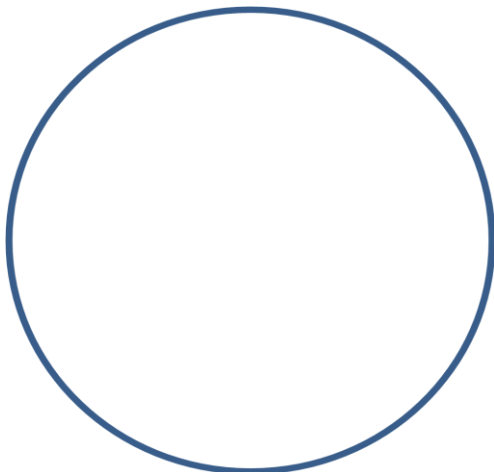
What color is this organism? _____

Does this organism actively swim? _____

Do you believe that this organism can undergo photosynthesis? _____

Using the types of organisms that were shown in the presentation at the beginning of the class period, how would you classify this specimen? _____

What characteristics caused you to classify it this way? _____



Neatly draw the organism in the circle to the left.

Specimen 4

Does this organism appear single-celled or multicellular? _____

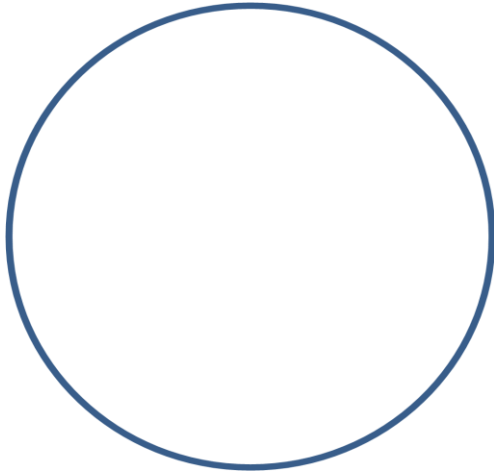
What color is this organism? _____

Does this organism actively swim? _____

Do you believe that this organism can undergo photosynthesis? _____

Using the types of organisms that were shown in the presentation at the beginning of the class period, how would you classify this specimen? _____

What characteristics caused you to classify it this way? _____



Neatly draw the organism in the circle to the left.

Specimen 5

Does this organism appear single-celled or multicellular? _____

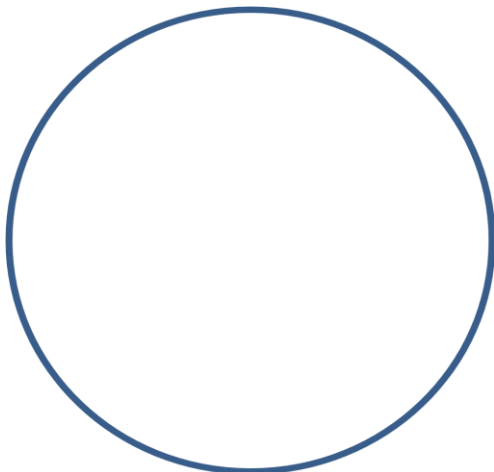
What color is this organism? _____

Does this organism actively swim? _____

Do you believe that this organism can undergo photosynthesis? _____

Using the types of organisms that were shown in the presentation at the beginning of the class period, how would you classify this specimen? _____

What characteristics caused you to classify it this way? _____



Neatly draw the organism in the circle to the left.