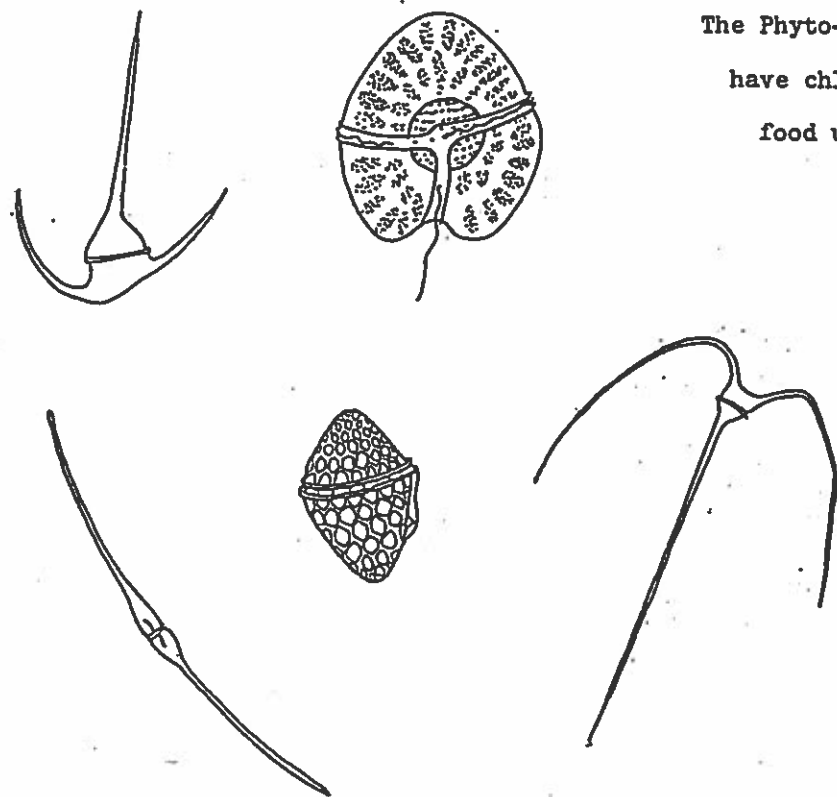


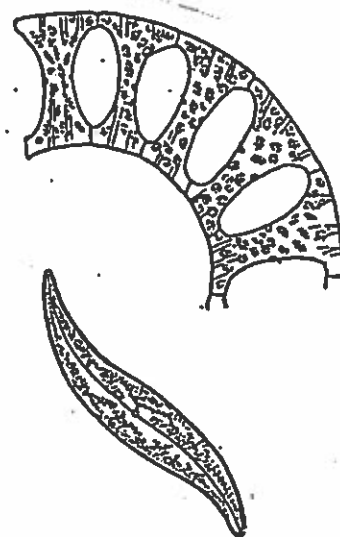
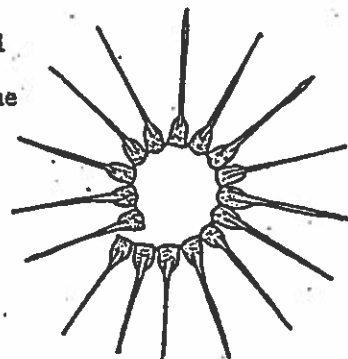
Phytoplankton



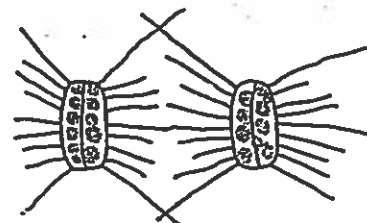
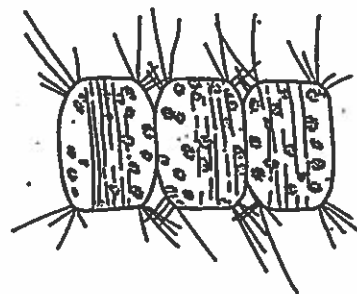
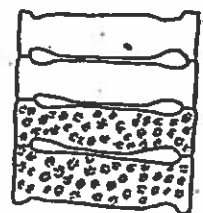
The Phyto-plankton are very small plants. Most have chlorophyll, and so can make their own food using gases and minerals dissolved in the seawater. You must use a strong microscope to see phyto-plankton. The plants on this page are called DINOFLAGELLATES. They can swim a little, by waving a long thin tentacle. These ones have a hard outer shell.

MICROSCOPIC

These Phyto-plankton are very common. They are DIATOMS, and often several cells of the same type join together in long chains. They will usually look green under the microscope. Diatoms do not move very much—just float.



MICROSCOPIC



info

Nova Scotia Museum 1747 Summer Street Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 3A6, Phone 429-4610

PLANKTON

PLANKTON are tiny water plants and animals that drift with the currents and tides. They can swim a little, but not enough to make progress against the water's own movement. Plankton do move up and down in the water, every day.

Plant plankton are called PHYTO-PLANKTON. Animal plankton are called ZOO-PLANKTON.

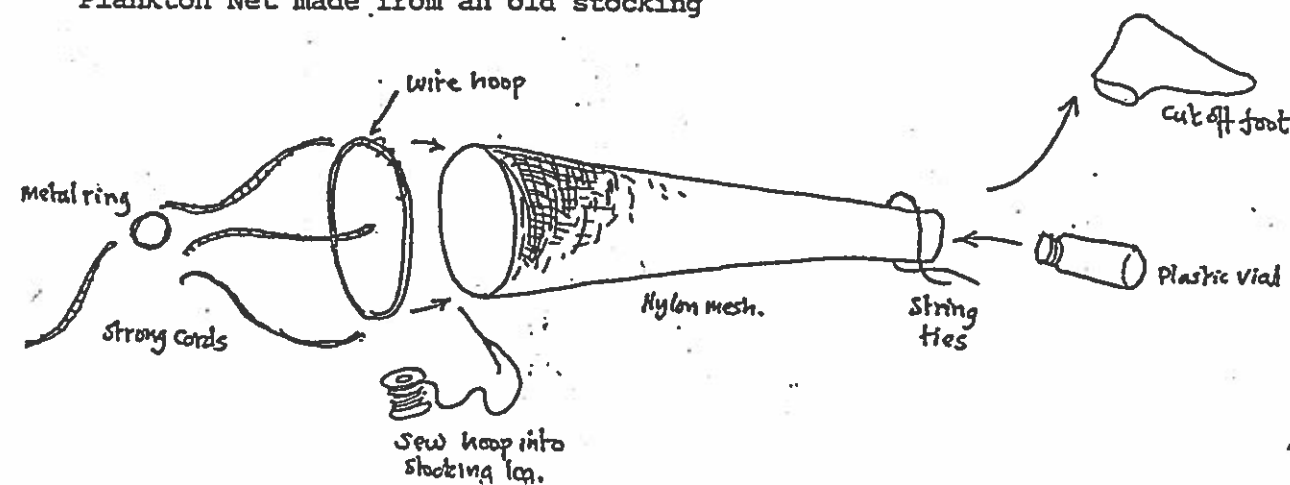
PHYTO-PLANKTON are extremely small. You need a microscope to see them. ZOO-PLANKTON can be as big as a grape or as long as a finger, but even some zoo-plankton are microscopic in size.

ZOO-PLANKTON include some animals that are tiny but full-grown, and some baby animals - like baby fish, lobsters or periwinkles. Often these baby animals (larvae) look much different than the adult shapes they will become.

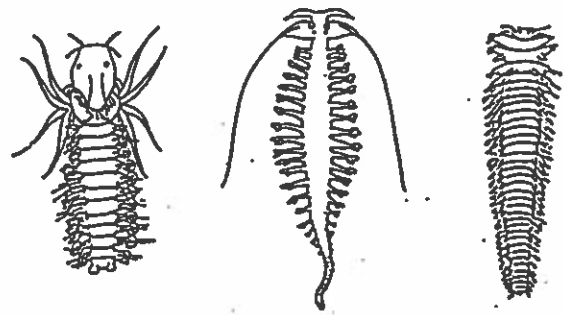
You can catch plankton by towing a net made from a nylon stocking or half a pantyhose. Tow it just below the surface of salt or fresh water. Plankton are most abundant during "plankton blooms" in spring.

In the ecology of the ocean, plankton are important food creatures. Even the largest animal in the world, the Blue Whale, eats plankton.

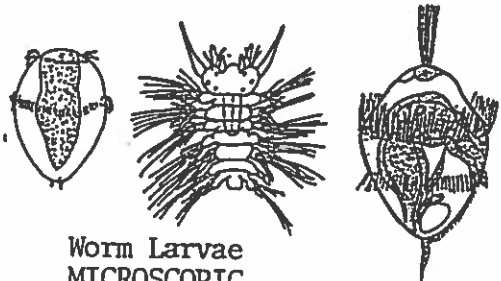
Plankton Net made from an old stocking



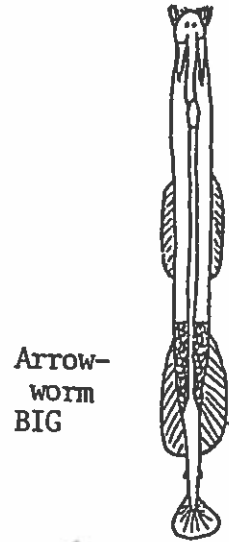
Common Plankton



Swimming Worms
BIG



Worm Larvae
MICROSCOPIC



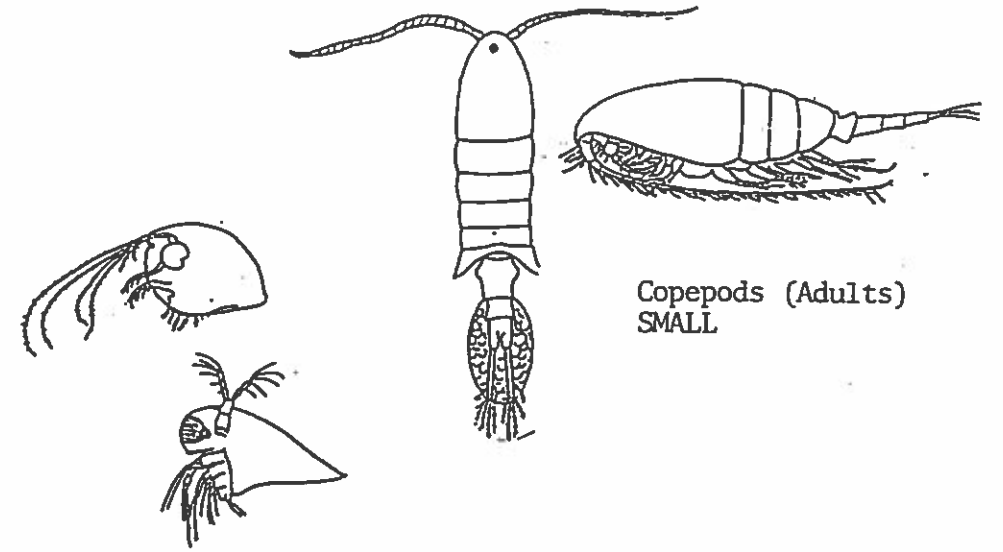
Arrow-worm
BIG

These drawings are not the real size.

BIG means big enough for you to see details like legs and eyes without any help.

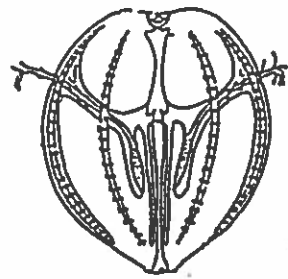
SMALL means you can see them with just your eyes, but you cannot see any details.

MICROSCOPIC means you cannot even see them without a microscope.



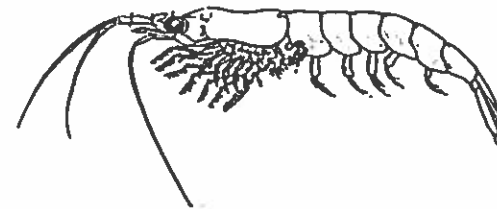
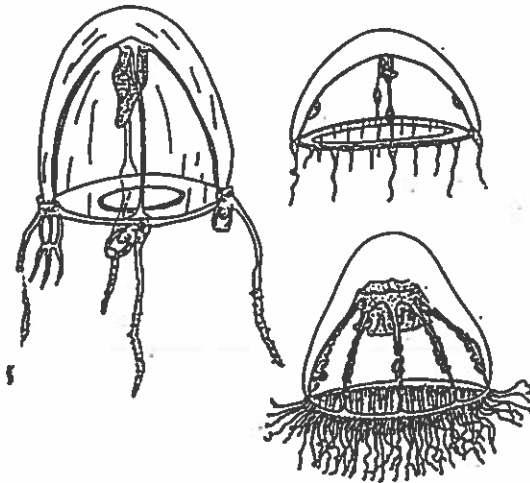
Copepods (Adults)
SMALL

Water Fleas (Adults)
SMALL

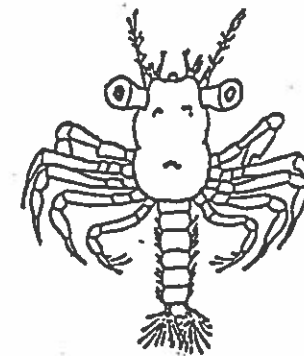


Comb Jelly
"Sea Gooseberry"
BIG

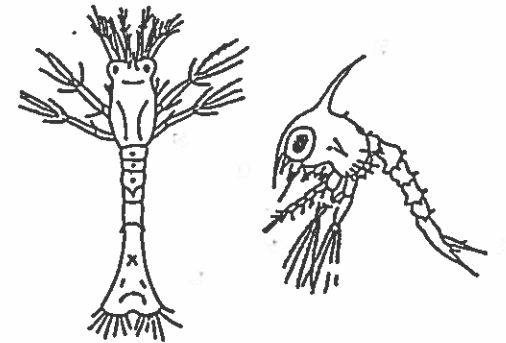
Medusae
BIG
(like Jellyfish)



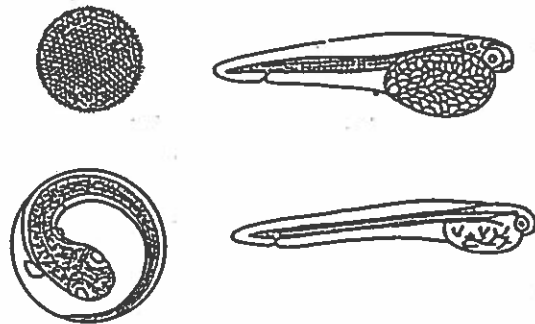
Krill (Adult)
BIG



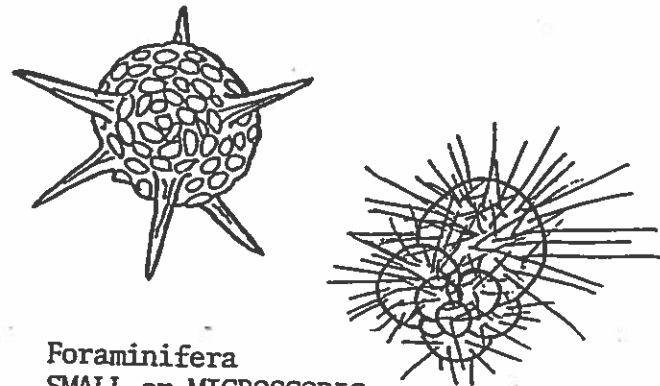
Crab Larvae
MICROSCOPIC



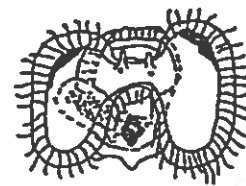
Lobster Larvae
SMALL to BIG



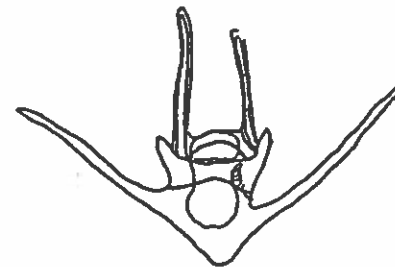
Fish Eggs and Larvae
SMALL to BIG



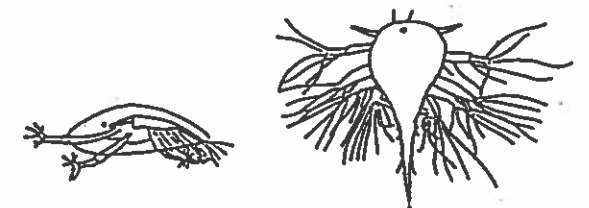
Foraminifera
SMALL or MICROSCOPIC



Snail Larva
MICROSCOPIC



Starfish Larva
MICROSCOPIC



Barnacle Larvae
MICROSCOPIC