

3rd experiment: Examination of plankton

We share a sea. Diet for a clean Baltic

A lot of the animals and plants in the sea are so small that we can only see them when using a microscope. They are called plankton. To be more specific, the plants are called phyto-plankton and the small animals are called zoo-plankton. Phyto-plankton consists of small algae, which are crucial to marine life. They produce oxygen through photosynthesis (see page 11 *We share a sea*) and they serve as food for both small and larger animals. Algae need nutrients to grow just like all other plants. So, when nutrients are washed into the sea, it's an advantage at first: the algae grow and thus more food and more oxygen are available for the marine fauna.

This is what you need:

- A pipette
- A microscope
- A glass slide and a cover glass
- Turbid water from the jars in experiment 2 or water from an aquarium with fish and plants.

This is what you do:

- Withdraw a little turbid water with the pipette
- Put a drop of water on the slide
- Place the cover glass on top of it and look at it under the microscope

Questions:

- What do you see in the microscope?
- Observe whether you can see the chloroplasts inside the algae?
- What do the plants use the chloroplasts for?
- Make a drawing of what you see.
- Discuss your observations in class.