

Student Worksheet: The plankton challenge

Phase of learning

Years 5 - 6, Years 7 - 8, Years 9 - 10

WA Curriculum

K-10 Science

Region

North Coast, Gascoyne Coast, West Coast, South Coast, Indian Ocean Territories

Summary

This Student Worksheet is associated with the Lesson: The Plankton Challenge



The Plankton Challenge

Name: _____

Your task is to invent a weird and wonderful plankton model that has **neutral buoyancy** - that is, it neither sinks nor floats.

A variety of construction materials can be used in your model.

Each model needs to be built with items that make your model sink and also items that float to counteract the sinking. **Can you build the perfect balance?**

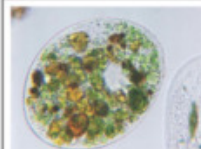
Bag of tricks:

Plankton use some clever tricks to help them maintain a neutral buoyancy.

Here are some examples to get you started:



JELLIES – their bodies are made out of lightweight materials. Try to replicate this by using light materials such as plastic, balsa wood, cork and aluminium.



PROTOZOA – their bodies contains oil droplets and gas bubbles. Use a balloon filled with air, sponge material, foam or styrofoam.



ARROW WORM – their bodies are very thin and flat. Use thin materials with a large surface area such as piece of plastic.



COPEPOD – their bodies have large projections (spikes) to increase surface area. Use items such as toothpicks, kebab sticks, pipe cleaners and feathers.

1. Draw your design

Download Files

[STUDENT WORKSHEET - The Plankton Challenge](#)

Related resources

[Lesson: The Plankton Challenge](#)

[Fact Sheet: Plankton](#)