



The plankton race

Background reading for teachers

This reading gives you the background for the challenge.

Staying up

Phytoplankton must stay in the sunlit surface layer to photosynthesise. Adaptations that slow sinking include small size, spines and projections that increase drag, flattened or elongated shapes, chain formation, and stored oils or gas that reduce density. The challenge models these ideas, though real plankton are far smaller and also ride on water movement and turbulence.

Sources

1. Marine Conservation Philippines.

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