



Plankton Viewer Activity

Materials:

Petri dishes (1 per student)
Long Popsicle sticks (2 per student)
Tape
Scissors
Black and white paper
Elastic bands (2 per viewer)

Instructions:

Some students will use no paper on their petri dish, while others will use white or black as a background. Those using paper will trace a circle on the white or black paper using the Petri dish and then stick the paper on the outside of the petri dish (either the top or bottom). Then tape a popsicle stick across the surface of the circle on both halves of the dish.

After a plankton sample is obtained, pour some of the plankton water sample in one half of the dish, filling the dish to almost overflowing. Then put the cover on, lining up the Popsicle sticks to squeeze the dish closed. Wrap elastic bands around the ends of the sticks to keep the dish closed.

Viewers with no paper will show some sample, those with white paper will show some of the colour variations and those with black paper will show the majority of the organisms in the sample and their movement.

Black or white paper disc
on top or bottom

