

# Plankton in the Pond Water

## STATION #11

Directions:

- 1) Look at the water samples with unaided eyes. Discuss what you see in the water.
- 2) Describe and identify what you think you are seeing. Do you see more phytoplankton\* or zooplankton\*?
- 3) Now with the aid of the discovery scope take a closer look at the samples. What do you observe more of, phytoplankton or zooplankton?



### Think about...

- Which was easier to see with the unaided eye, phytoplankton or zooplankton?
- What explanation can you give for a reason why there is more of one type of plankton than the other?

*Purpose: Make observations and draw conclusions about plankton in samples of water found in nearby wetlands.*

\* plankton = phytoplankton + zooplankton  
*phyto* –plant  
*zoo*- animal

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### Needed Materials:

- Container fresh pond water
- Discovery scopes or microscopes
- Pipettes to collect water samples to view
- Paper towels
- Optional for added excitement: Brine shrimp (*Artemia franciscana*)

*Post-note: A local UTMSI graduate student, Megan Fencil, who volunteered to help at this station brought brine shrimp and a write up for families to learn more about zooplankton.*

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