

Vocabulary

Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.

copepods	small crustaceans that have two long antennae for movement and gathering food; most common zooplankton
diatom	composed of two identical halves encased in a shell made of silica or “glass”; most common phytoplankton
dinoflagellates (dy-noh-FLAJ-eh-laytz)	small plankton with characteristics of both plants and animals; causes red tide
flagella (FLA-gel-la)	tiny whiplike hairs used for movement or catching food
foraminiferan (fo-RAM-i-nif-e-ran)	a single-celled holoplankton with a calcium carbonate shell
holoplankton (hol-o-PLANK-ton)	organisms that spend their entire lives as plankton
larva	form of an organism that is immature and very different looking from the adult organism; plural is <i>larvae</i>
megalops (meg-A-lops)	planktonic larval stage of the crab; follows the zoeal stage
meroplankton (mer-o-PLANK-ton)	organisms that spend only part of their lives as plankton
mesh	open spaces in a net or screen

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mysis	planktonic shrimp larva
photic zone	the lighted region of the ocean; area where photosynthesis can occur; phytoplankton live in this region
phytoplankton	small, usually microscopic plant plankton that float or drift in the ocean
plankton	small, usually microscopic plant or animal organisms that float or drift in the ocean
plankton net	a cone-shaped net of fine mesh that is pulled through the water to collect plankton
pseudopod (SOO-duh-pod)	footlike projection
radiolarian	a single-celled holoplankton with a transparent body or shell
(ray-dee-oh-LAYR-ee-uhn)	
tentacles	long, threadlike structures that hang from some organisms; may contain dangerous stinging cells
zoea (zo-E-a)	young planktonic larval state of the crab
zooplankton	small, usually microscopic animal plankton that float or drift in the ocean