

Marine Quest



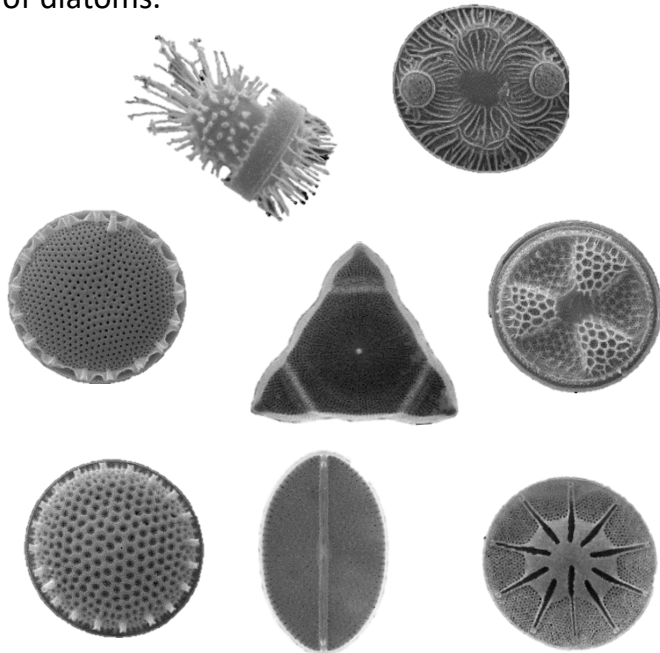
Did you know that many microalgae are a source of compounds useful in medicine and are considered promising as biofuel?



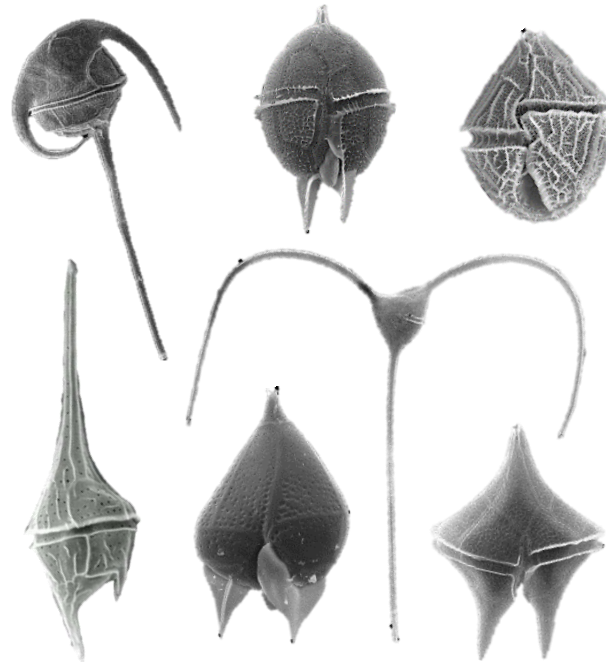
This is a **chlorophyte** (chloro=green ; phyte=plant), an early microalgae ancestor of land plants.

Did you know that even dinosaurs thanked phytoplankton for the air they were breathing about 200 million years ago?

Diatoms: Did you know that diatoms played an important role in the fame of Alfred Nobel? He was able to successfully invent dynamite in 1867 by adding explosives to diatomaceous earth - fossilized remains of the silica cell wall of diatoms.



Dinoflagellates: Did you know that some dinoflagellates can glow in the dark? When disturbed, these tiny cells can emit blue light – bioluminescence - and make the wake of a boat look as beautiful as a night sky.



Coccolithophores: Did you know that these microscopic algae formed the 300 feet tall mighty White Cliffs of Dover in England? The cliffs are primarily made of white chalk, that is, plates of calcium carbonate (or coccoliths) that cover the cells that sank and accumulated on the bottom over long periods of time.



SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPE IMAGES. Real cell sizes vary from 5 μ m to 100 μ m (1 μ m = 1/1,000 mm)

There are 7 phytoplankton cells hidden in this beach scene. Can you find them?
Check original images and fun facts on the back.

