

STEM ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK

Plankton Stamps

Theme: Plankton; Phytoplankton and Zooplankton

Ages: 5-8 years old

Prep Time: 5 minutes

Activity Time: 15-20 minutes

Activity Summary:

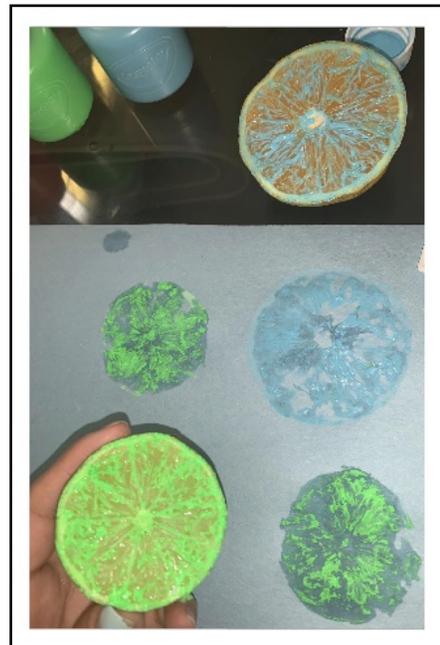
Did you know that the greenish hue of the Hudson River Estuary is an indicator of health? This color is due to plankton, which are tiny, often microscopic plants and animals that cannot swim against strong currents. Plankton are the foundation of the Hudson River food web and provide oxygen to a variety of organisms in the River. There are two main types of plankton, phytoplankton and zooplankton. Phytoplankton are plant plankton and zooplankton are animals. Today's lesson is a fun craft to showcase the many shapes and sizes of plankton. Learn more and create your own Hudson River plankton scene!

Recommended Craft Materials:

- Medium to large size construction paper or scrap paper
- Paint
- Markers or colored pencils
- 1-2 pieces of citrus fruit (Lemons, limes, oranges or grapefruit all work)
- 3-4 string beans
- Tongue depressors (if string beans are not accessible)
- Scissors
- Paint brush

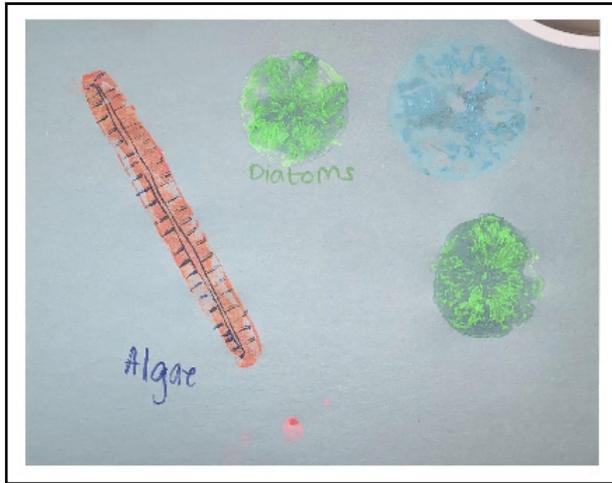
Craft Instructions

1. **Safety Note:** To prepare your plankton materials, have an adult cut the citrus fruit in half carefully. Then, have an adult a string bean lengthwise.
2. Color your Hudson River! Create the signature greenish hue of the Hudson River using paint, colored pencils, markers or crayons.
3. It's time to make some plankton next. Using the items that have been cut in half, take a paint brush and lightly paint the cut surface of the fruits and string beans.
4. Stamp the painted surface of the fruit on your construction/scratch paper.
5. Repeat this stamping process as many times necessary to fill up the paper with various plankton shapes!



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6. Let the paint dry for ~5-10 mins.
7. After the paint dries, make sure to label each of your plankton as algae, diatoms, zooplankton, etc.
8. Complete your underwater scene by adding in other Hudson River creatures! If you're looking for inspiration, check out our [Pile Poster](#).



Examples of Real Hudson River Plankton:

