

Phyto Scale Models

This activity takes about 40 minutes and helps students to become familiar with some types of phytoplankton and to visualize their relative sizes. When hung on the classroom walls, the posters provide a quick reference for students.

Phyto Scale Models

In groups of four, create a poster with 4 types of phytoplankton we have studied in class; cyanobacteria, coccolithophores, diatoms and dinoflagellates, drawn to a scale of 5000 to 1.

Instructions

- _____ Assign each group member a type of phytoplankton.
- _____ Each group member needs to select a representative species of the assigned type of phyto and look up its approximate size.
- _____ Calculate the size of the phyto at a scale of 5000:1.
- _____ On a piece of poster paper, make an ocean-like scene with a rocky shore as a background.
- _____ Each group member draws a 5000:1 scale drawing of their phyto where they might be found in this setting. Make several drawings if the phyto occurs in colonies.
- _____ Label each drawing with the species name and type of each phyto.