

# Zooplankton

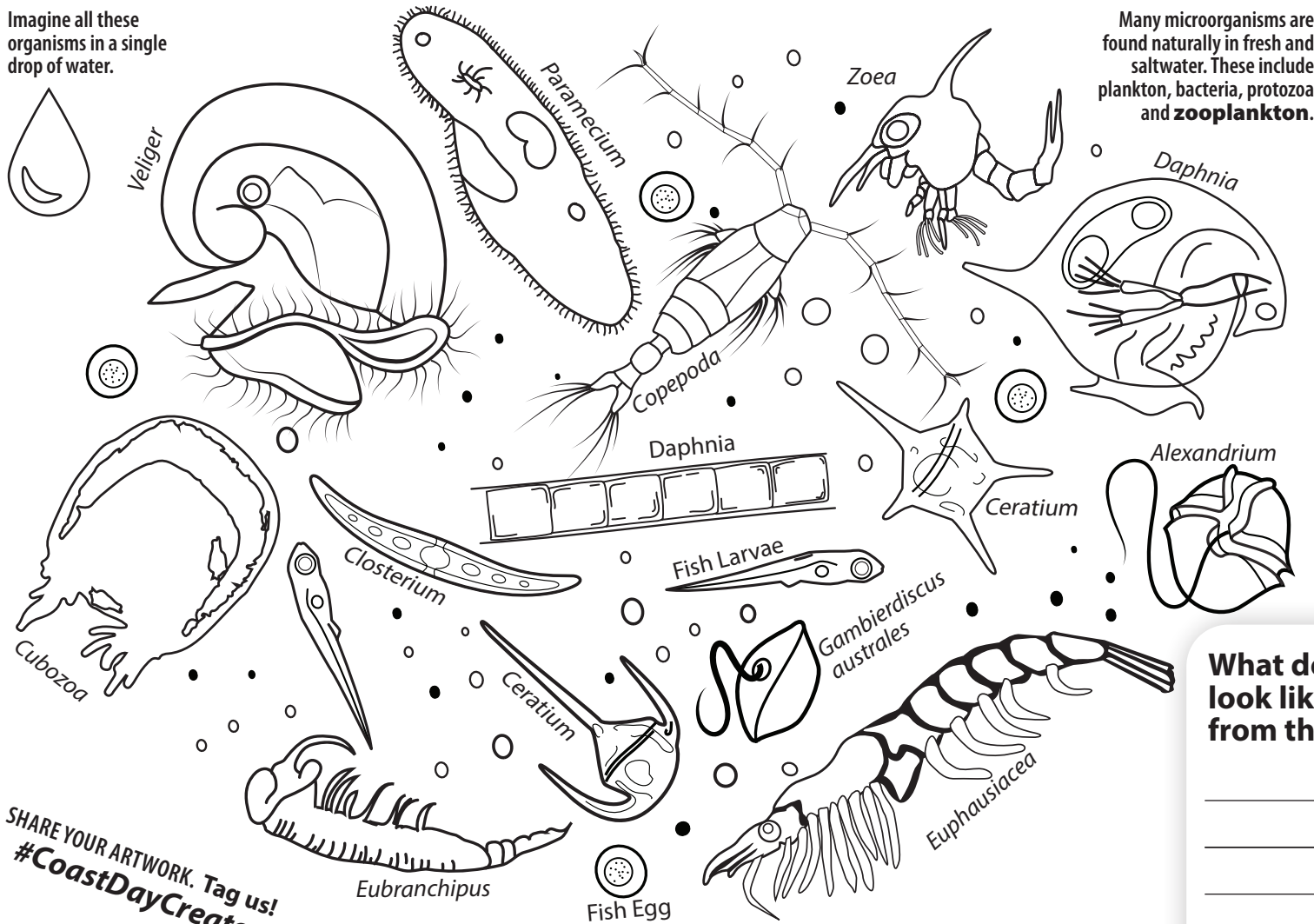
The word **zooplankton** is derived from the Greek zoon, meaning “animal,” and planktos, meaning “wanderer” or “drifter.”

**Species:** More than 10,000 described in this class

**Size:** Generally longer than 153 μm, up to about 5,000 μm (5 mm) or about 0.2 inches.

**Range:** Live in almost all water bodies, including oceans, lakes swamps and ponds, although they mostly cannot survive in rivers and streams.

Imagine all these organisms in a single drop of water.



Many microorganisms are found naturally in fresh and saltwater. These include plankton, bacteria, protozoa and **zooplankton**.

## Fun Facts:

**Zooplankton** include microscopic animals (krill, sea snails, pelagic worms, etc.), the young of larger invertebrates and fish, and weak swimmers like jellyfish that just drift along with the tides and currents. Most **zooplankton** eat phytoplankton, and most are, in turn, eaten by larger animals (or by each other). So you could say they one step above phytoplankton in the food chain. The diverse collection of organisms can be important in the food chain that forms the basis of life in the water.

**What do you think zooplankton look like and can you ID them from this sample?**

---



---



---



---



---

SHARE YOUR ARTWORK. Tag us!  
#CoastDayCreate

Answer: Veliger, Copepoda, Zoa, Daphnia, Closterium, Eubbranchipus, Fish Egg, Fish Larvae, Fish Egg, Eubbranchipus and Euphausiacea

Coloring by \_\_\_\_\_