

# TEN TOTALLY PLANKTASTIC PLANKTON FACTS!

1. The name Plankton comes from the Greek word 'planktos', meaning "WANDERER".
2. Plankton vary in size from microscopic diatoms to GIANT jellyfish!
3. Plant plankton are known as 'PHYTOPLANKTON' and animal plankton are known as 'ZOOPLANKTON'
4. Plankton usually refers to marine species, but you can also get freshwater plankton in lakes and ponds!
5. When plankton die, their bodies fall and sink to the bottom of the ocean, known as 'MARINE SNOW'
6. The white cliffs of Dover are made up of a special species of phytoplankton, known as a COCCOLITHOPHORE!
7. Even the PETROL we use in our cars comes from plankton!
8. Not all plankton are INVERTEBRATES - many species of fish start out life as plankton!
9. The whole oceanic FOOD CHAIN relies on plankton, from the largest whale to the tiniest worm!
10. Even we rely on plankton - phytoplankton takes in around 50% of the planet's CO<sub>2</sub> and gives us 50% of our oxygen!