

Today my students and myself were able to watch a webcast by Jeffery Morgan about Plankton. He basically made awareness about what they are and why we should care about them. Since we are located in the southern heart of Kentucky my students do not learn about marine life in general very much. I felt this webcast would allow them to learn beyond the basic whale and dolphin knowledge that they have. Also, after being surveyed I only had a handful of students who had seen a webcast before and even knew what it was.

I too told my students that the only plankton I really knew was the one from spongebob which was rather funny since he mentioned that in the webcast. I too learned several things about Plankton I never knew and I for sure never knew how important it was. Important things such as oxygen provide like half our supply. There were also two types of Plankton mentioned: phytoplankton and zooplankton. We were able to learn the differences between the two and how they did different jobs. He also mentioned food webs in which we are familiar with and their importance as well.

Most students after reading their reflections were like myself and did not know that 50% of the oxygen we breathe comes from the ocean and plankton. They also found it funny but interesting when he mentioned the importance of whale poop too. After they turned in their papers of what they learned, we had a great classroom discussion about marine life in general and how important it is to keep the ocean clean. We also mentioned how we are impacted by ocean life and what we can do to help our part in keeping it clean and safe. Below you will find student sample work and pictures of them engaged in the webcast.

of brachan - what is plankton?  
 they are ocean drifters (they go with the flow)  
 there are two type Phytoplankton and Zooplankton.  
 Phytoplankton are plants that take up the CO<sub>2</sub> of the  
 sea.

Phytoplankton  
 Zooplankton  
 Diatoms  
 Dinoflagellates

What do plankton do? - in ocean they  
 of the ocean and they live during the day and at  
 night they come out to eat and breathe.  
 What should we learn about them. they are very  
 important to the ocean.  
 why do we care about plankton? (They are  
 important to the ocean and they are very important to the  
 world. They are very important to the world.)

Only Water & Plankton

- Great swim against a current
- Phytoplankton - base of marine food web  
 provide 50% of the oxygen in the planet  
 Zooplankton - Primary consumers in the ocean
- Phytoplankton can create their shell using CO<sub>2</sub> more  
 than 100% is important



