

Congratulations! You are now the proud owner of a dinopet.

- *What is a dinopet?*
 - A dinopet is a home for microscopic organisms.
- *What are microscopic organisms?*
 - They are living things that you cannot see with your bare eyes (or even glasses). You may need a microscope or a magnifying glass to see them! But you may be able to observe the changes that these living things have on their environment.

Right now your dinopet is empty (*well, really, it has some air in it and honestly probably some microbes that we cannot see without a fancy microscope*).

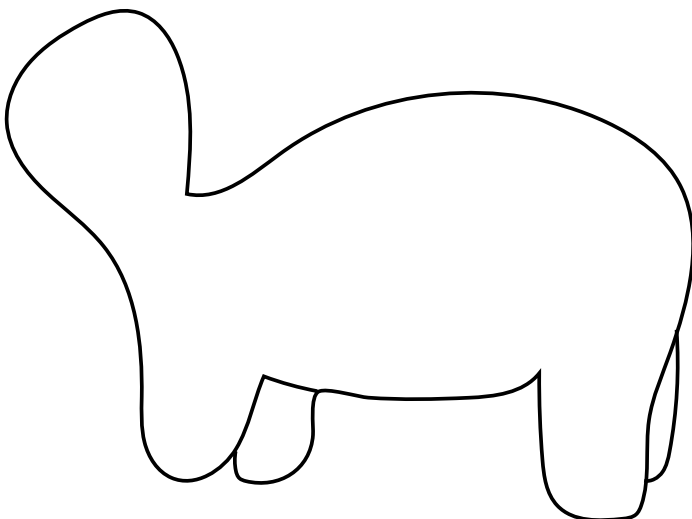
It is up to you to fill your dinopet! Here is how.

- 1) Ask your parent/guardian to help you get to a body of water (ocean, pond, lake, stream – not your sink!). Bring a cup with you.
- 2) Collect water with your cup and pour it into the bottom of your dinopet.
- 3) Be sure to leave some air in the dinopet (don't fill it up 100% of the way – maybe about 70% full)
- 4) Close the bottom of the dinopet tightly (a quarter helps secure it tightly)

Now what?

- Look at your dinopet. Do you see anything?
- Take notes (observe!) every few days, seeing if things change.
- What you could see:
 - Maybe it will become greener, browner, or cloudy.
 - Maybe an animal will grow up from a microscopic life stage to visible life stage!
 - Maybe you'll see nothing! (this happens to scientists a lot)
 - Maybe a clump of brown goo will become a clump of orange goo.
 - Maybe a clump of brown goo will disappear, becoming food for unseen microscopic living things!
 - Something we couldn't even imagine! (this happens to scientists a lot too!)

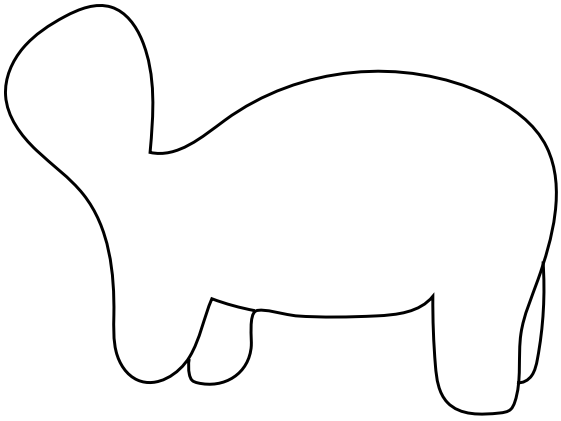
Inside just a handful of seawater is an entire world of tiny (microscopic) life! What you're observing could be a food web, a life cycle, or chemistry! On this page and the back of the page, keep track of your observations! Observe, draw, write, and share your findings with your friends and family!



Day 1: Filled up dinopet about 70% with water from

I see _____

I predict that I will eventually see:



Day ____.

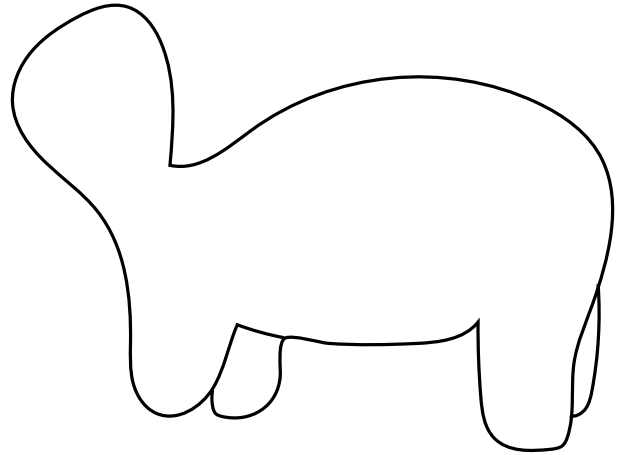
I observe _____

What I think is happening is

Day ____.

I observe _____

What I think is happening is

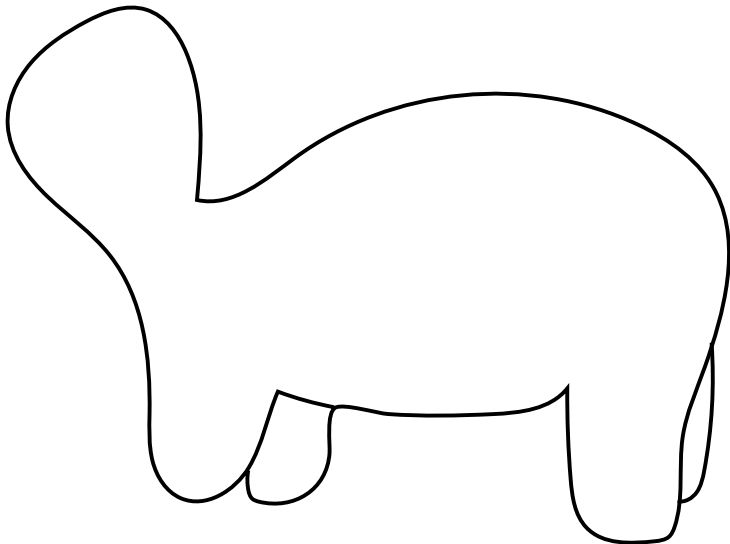


Day ____.

I observe _____

What I think is happening is

If you had a big, fancy microscope, what do you think you would be able to see? What cool microscopic things could be happening? Let your imagination run wild!



If I could see all the tiny things happening inside my dinopet, I would want to see:

If you want to find out more about the possibilities of microscopic life or the ocean, consider requesting these books from your local library:

McElligot's Pool by Dr. Seuss (age 3+)

Tiny Creatures: The World of Microbes by Nicola Davies (5+)

Ocean Drifters: A Secret World Beneath the Waves (8+)