

Teacher Guide to Plankton Through a Microscope



This is a polychaete larva. You can tell the body is segmented. Look closely to see faint lighter lines projecting from the body. These are a few bristles or setae. The head with eye spots is on the top and there is a band of cilia beating just below it.



This is an older polychaete larva with lots of long bristles called setae along its segmented body. The head on the left has prominent eye spots and 2 tentacles.



These are copepods. They have a pair of long antennae and a single eye spot in the middle of the head. They have several appendages and move with a fast jerky strokes.



This is a mollusc veliger larva. The top one is showing only the shell. The bottom one has the velum extended with the ciliary bands beating.



This is a crab zoea larva. You can see the long spines that help it float and one of its large compound eyes. But it is curled into a ball so it is difficult to see the long narrow abdomen. But you can see the fast jerky movements it makes using the long abdomen.

