



These are diatoms (DIE-uh-toms). They are tiny creatures that live in streams, lakes, rivers, and even the ocean! Each diatom is a single cell that has a very special glass-like cell wall. Here we have "zoomed in" on the diatoms. They are actually as small as the period at the end of this sentence.

Scientists use microscopes to see diatoms in water. They are a powerful tool scientists use to check the health of water bodies. They are like plants in that they use sunlight to make their own food. Can you do that?! How many diatoms do you see? Have fun coloring them!