

Diatoms
die-uh- tom

What: Tiny algae usually
0.022 – 0.2mm across



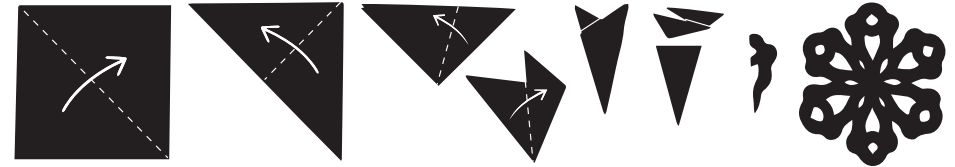
How: Their cell wall is made of silica that they get from the water around them

Where: Live diatoms are found in sea and fresh water. Fossil diatoms are found in sediments

Fun fact: During the Victorian era (late 1800s) people made beautiful displays with diatom fossils – you had to use a microscope to see them! Ōamaru diatom fossils are world famous because there is such a huge variety of them!

moɹɔɹɔ | Diatom
ɹɹA | Art

Diatom shapes are often symmetrical. If you could fold them both sides would be the same size and pattern. **Make a paper diatom using a square of paper from a magazine.**



Extra: stick your diatom on a piece of paper with a contrasting colour background.
You could use your diatom as a stencil - put it on a piece of paper, using a small piece of sponge carefully dab it with paint.

