Observing unicellular algae

Once you have made your ‘hanging drop’, observe the organisms under the microscope at the lowest magnification.

Describe what you can see once you have the organisms in focus.

What happens if you increase the magnification by using a different lens.

Draw three different algae

 Can you work out the magnification? X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Describe some differences between the organisms.

See if you can name the organisms you have drawn.

Are any organisms moving? How do you think they move through water?

Unicellular algae live in the sea along with other tiny organisms and are known as phytoplankton. Here are some things to find out about phytoplankton.

1. How can such tiny plants be important to photosynthesis?
2. How do scientists study them?
3. Scientists think the phytoplankton may be important in helping with the problem of climate change. See what you can find out about this.