

# ***Diatoms***



## **PLANTS & ALGAE**

*Division chrysophyta*

*size: 15 microns*

*Habitat: Sunlit ocean*

*Diatoms are phytoplankton made up of silica. They are an important building block of the food web and for providing atmospheric oxygen. In late winter and early summer, diatoms have a population explosion and saturate the surf zone creating brown foam that washes ashore and looks like an oil spill.*

***Fun Fact: Diatomaceous earth is made of fossilized diatoms!***