

Materials needed:

“Microfossils: the Earth’s Storytellers” poster

8 x 11” version of microfossil images

scissors

Directions:

- 1) Cut up the microfossil images on the 8 x 11” version
- 2) Read the “Introduction for Teacher”
- 3) Identify each image and label them on the back.

Place them in groups and record how many you have of each kind:

- * Calcareous Nannofossils (discoasters) _____
- * Foraminifera (forams) _____
- * Diatoms _____
- * Radiolarians _____
- * Silicoflagellates _____

- 4) Which is most common? _____
Which is least common? _____

- 5) Use online sources to answer these questions:

- * Which in actual size is the smallest? _____
What is the approximate size range? _____

- * Why is it possible to use the microfossils in a core to identify the approximate age of the sample? _____

- * Which of these organisms are autotrophs? _____

- * What are some other types of microfossils found in deep-sea cores? _____

- 6) When time permits, explore other resources suggested in the poster extensions and/or other websites. Record your comments below and on the reverse side.