**Haley Birnbaum**       **Lesson 8**

Earth2Class       "Small Creatures, Big Science:
                   Identifying Microfossils

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)      4
   * Foraminifera (forams)      4
   * Diatoms      8
   * Radiolarians      7
   * Silicoflagellates      2

4) Which is most common? _Diatoms_
   Which is least common? _Silico-flagellates_

5) Use online sources to answer these questions:
   * Which in actual size is the smallest? _Discoasters (Nannofossils)_
   What is the approximate size range? _Usually between 6 & 10 microns_

   * Why is it possible to use the microfossils in a core to identify the approximate age of the sample? ~~Discoasters diatoms, silico-flagellates~~ _Because the fossils can be dated & depending on the date of the fossils ⇒ that time period/age can be linked to a portion of the core._
   * Which of these organisms are autotrophs? _Discoasters, diatoms & silico-flagellates_

   * What are some other types of microfossils found in deep-sea cores?
   _calcareous microfossils, phosphatic, siliceous & organic microfossils_

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.

※ The link for "Small Creatures, Big Science" wouldn't open, so I tried my best to look up pictures & use the small printed version with the poster. That being said, I couldn't exactly "explore" the extensions, however they seem like great additions to this lesson & could possibly be used as extra credit.