

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Lab: Identifying Algae

Purpose: Using a dichotomous key, you will learn to identify 4 different species of algae commonly found in the New England area.

Materials:

- 4 unidentified algal species
- “*Illustrated Key to the Seaweeds of New England*” – dichotomous key
- Worksheet on morphology of algae.
- Record/Observation sheet

Procedure:

1. Working in pairs, go to one of the lab stations set up around the room. There are a total of 4 different stations you will need to visit in this activity.
2. Once at the station, determine whether you are observing a species of green, red or brown algae.
3. Use a dichotomous key to identify the algal species. (*A dichotomous key is a tool used by scientists that helps to identify organisms. It is similar to a ‘choose your own adventure book’; at each point, you will be given two choices of where to go next.*)
4. You are responsible for recording each step you have taken in identifying the algae. This must be recorded on your record/observation sheet.
5. Once you have identified the species of algae, make a simple pencil diagram of the specimen.
6. Continue through the 4 stations to complete the lab activity.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Record/Observation Sheet

### STATION #1

Identification Steps:

- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .

Name of Algae: \_\_\_\_\_

Drawing:

### STATION #2

Identification Steps:

- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .

Name of Algae: \_\_\_\_\_

Drawing:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

STATION #3

Identification Steps:

- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .

Name of Algae: \_\_\_\_\_

Drawing:

STATION #4

Identification Steps:

- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .

Name of Algae: \_\_\_\_\_

Drawing: