

# Colour the Copepods!

Copepods are tiny crustaceans that inhabit just about every wet habitat - from freshwater to saltwater to damp mosses, leaf litter and pitcher plants. They are extremely abundant in the ocean and serve as a vital food source for a huge variety of organisms. Identifying copepods is challenging, not only because of their small size and incredible diversity, but because the different life stages of a single species look very different from one another.

Dr. Al Lewis has dedicated his career to learning the look and life histories of different copepods and teaching his findings to others. Identifications under the microscope can now be linked to their unique DNA fingerprint, which researchers like Coreen Forbes analyze. Using microscope and genetic techniques, we can learn which organisms live in an ecosystem no matter what they look like or how small they are.

## Instructions

Colour the copepods below - notice the differences between life stages!

