Vocabulary

**brine shrimp** tiny animals that live in salt water

**egg** a round or oval shell from which young hatch

Inquiry Focus

**Observe** When students observe, they use their senses to learn about things around them.

Concepts and Skills

- Students understand that living organisms can be large or tiny.
- Students use a magnifier to observe brine shrimp and describe what they see.
- Students understand that eggs need a certain habitat in which to hatch.
- Students observe the hatching of brine shrimp eggs and the growth of the shrimp.
- Students observe the characteristics of brine shrimp.
- Students record data from their observations.

Planning

**Materials**

- aquarium, rectangular plastic
- aquarium lid, rectangular plastic
- brewer’s yeast, dry
- brine shrimp eggs in hatchery
- *brine shrimp adults
- *construction paper, black
- cups, clear plastic
- dropper
- magnifier boxes
- magnifiers
- measuring cup, 8-oz
- measuring spoons, set
- microscope depression slide, plastic
- *microscope or video/microscope projection system
- salt, non-iodized
- *scissors
- tape, transparent
- trays, plastic
- *water

*Not provided in kit

**Student Resources**

- 1.1 Vocabulary
- 1.2 Observing Brine Shrimp
- 1.3 How Brine Shrimp Grow
- 1.4 Section 1 Assessment

In Advance

- Locate a local pet store that sells live brine shrimp.
Science Background

**Brine Shrimp Characteristics** Brine shrimp (also called sea monkeys) are crustaceans related to crabs, lobsters, pill bugs, and sow bugs. Brine shrimp are found in saline lakes and along ocean coastlines near the surface of the water where there is plenty of light. The young are called nymphs. Nymphs change into adults through a series of 15 molts that take approximately eight days. Adult brine shrimp average about 8 mm in length and have 20 trunk segments. They have appendages that they wave in a rhythmic pattern to swim. The shrimp are in constant motion because they are filter feeders. They use their appendages to funnel nutrients into their mouths. Brine shrimp eat microscopic organisms, such as saltwater algae and bacteria. Brine shrimp are eaten by many marine animals and form the base of many aquatic food chains.