

DomesticScience

Protest for Protists!

Protists are eukaryotic organisms (ones with cells that contain a nucleus) that are not animals, plants or fungus. We are looking at some *Euglena gracilis* an algae that eat by photosynthesis, heterotrophy or phagocytosis; they eat like plants but are highly mobile like animals and seek out the light with a photosensitive eye pit!

We are also looking at some yeast from the back of our kitchen cupboard, more than likely *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* although you can never be sure until you analyse their DNA. Maybe Little Pink Maker can help you out on that elsewhere in the building.

We've all heard about climate change but another potential problem is that the mass extinctions and shifts in population of living things caused by human industrial growth could alter our worlds *biodiversity* and threaten the resources all life depend on.

Things like pollinating insects and plants for growing human food are deeply inter-connected to other living and non-living things. Unlike carbon emissions, the real affect of large shifts in biodiversity is even more difficult to predict.

Often tiny creatures-like insects & bacteria and many living things we can't even see can have large affects on the world at a human scale. We are imagining if these tiny creatures could protest against change like humans can, how could we tell? We'd have to count them!

Counting is the key practice of bio-science; knowing how many things are alive, behaving in a certain way at a certain rate help us understand the living world at all scales.

Join us and count these really common domestic invisible creatures as if they were trying to protest the changes that will change *all* our lives!