

# Brine Shrimp



**Description:** The scientific name for brine shrimp is *Artemia*. Brine shrimp are a type of plankton. Plankton means drifter. So, like all plankton, they cannot swim against the current. Brine shrimp can grow to be about 1 centimeter long and can live for up to 1 year. Brine shrimp are fed to the invertebrates in the aquarium as they are high in fat!

**Defense:** Brine shrimp eggs can remain dormant for up to 2 years in dry, oxygen free environments. Once they are placed in salt water, the eggs can hatch within hours.

**Feed on:** Brine shrimp feed on phytoplankton. These are tiny plantlike algae that live in the ocean. Phytoplankton produce up to 80% of the oxygen on planet earth.

**WOW!** Brine shrimp are also known as sea monkeys.