COMMON ADAPTATIONS IN PLANKTON

Adaptation	Advantage
Flagella	Helps to swim/direction, keep away from predators
Legs/Bristles	To move/ to catch phytoplankton
Cilia	Movement/ to avoid predators
Antennae	To sense prey/ avoid predators
Eyes	To see
Gas vacuole	To control buoyancy
Wings	Like a parachute/ slow down sinking
Thin Skin	To stay afloat
Translucent	To stay afloat/ to hide
Small Size	Lighter/harder to be eaten (seen)
Cell extensions including: Spines, wings, hair-like structures, flagella in phytoplankton	• Increases the surface area: volume ratio of the organism, allowing it to reduce sinking and maintain near neutral buoyancy • Larger cells = more difficult for grazers to capture and ingest. • A greater surface area= increased area to house larger numbers of chloroplasts, increasing the rate of photosynthesis
Gas and oil accumulation/secretion	Gas and oil are lighter than water, which controls cell density/ability to float
Increased surface area to volume ratio	Long, thin or flattened body shapes reduce assist buoyancy and increase