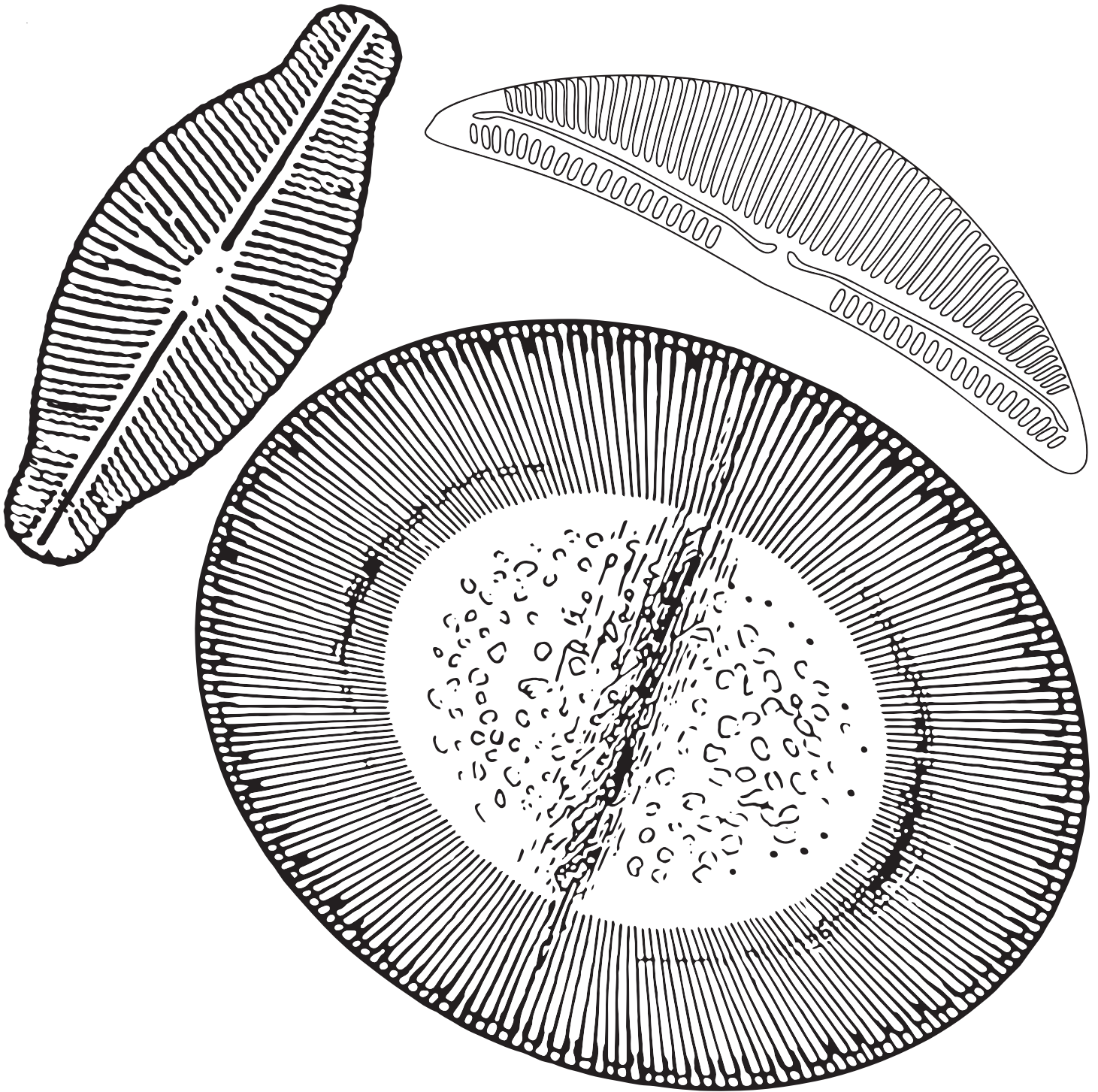


Achnanthes clevei, *Amphora ovalis*, and *Cyclotella*

Did you have fun coloring in these diatoms? Share your colorful creations with us on social media with #ShareYourDiscovery.

smm.org/diatom



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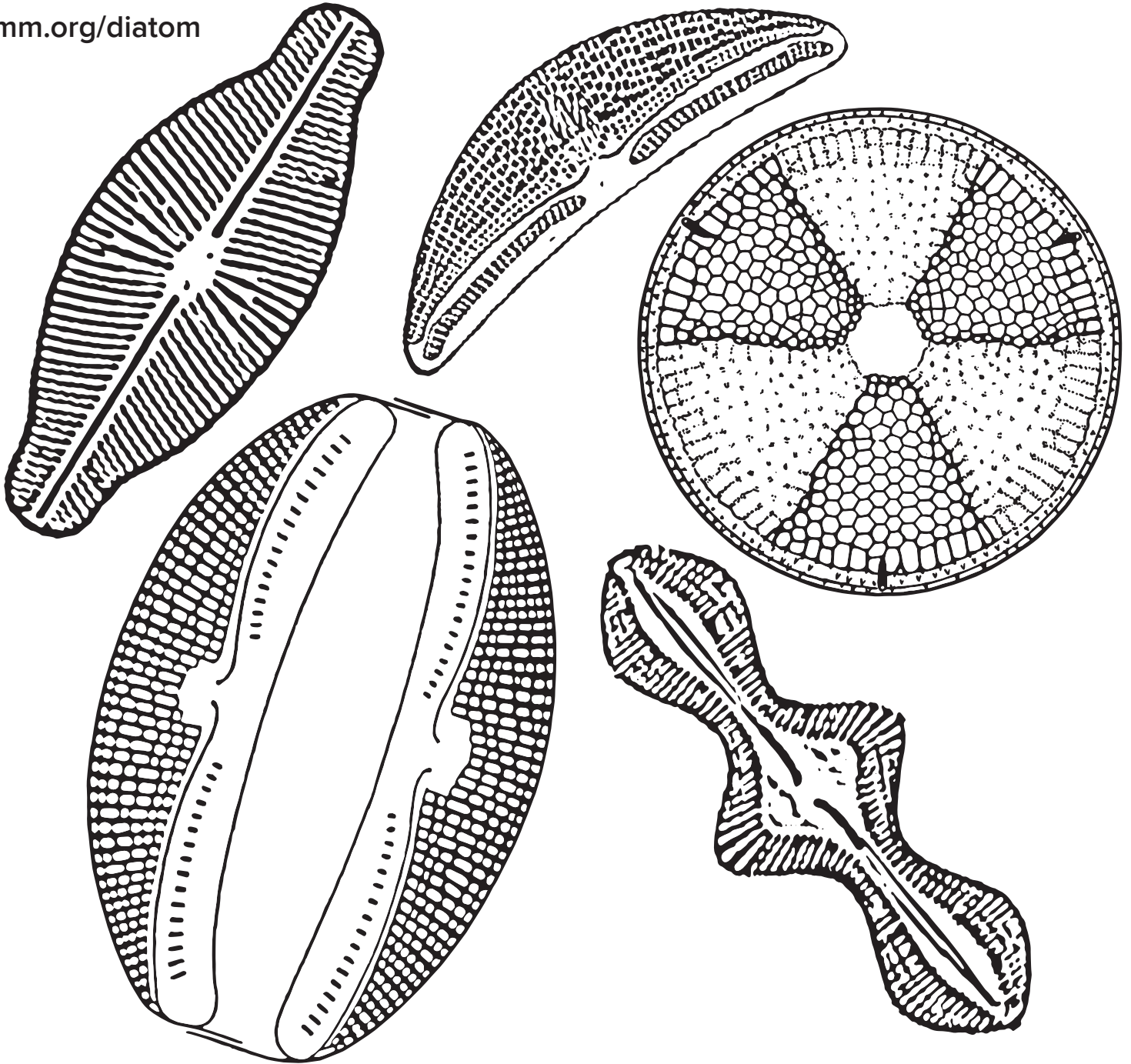
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***Achnanthes clevei*, *Amphora ovalis* x2,
Actinopterychus undulatus, *Caloneis lewisii***

“The only way I can describe studying diatoms is like being an art collector, a detective, and a genealogist on top of being a naturalist, an ecologist, and limnologist.”

- Tori Thrash, Environmental Research Fellow

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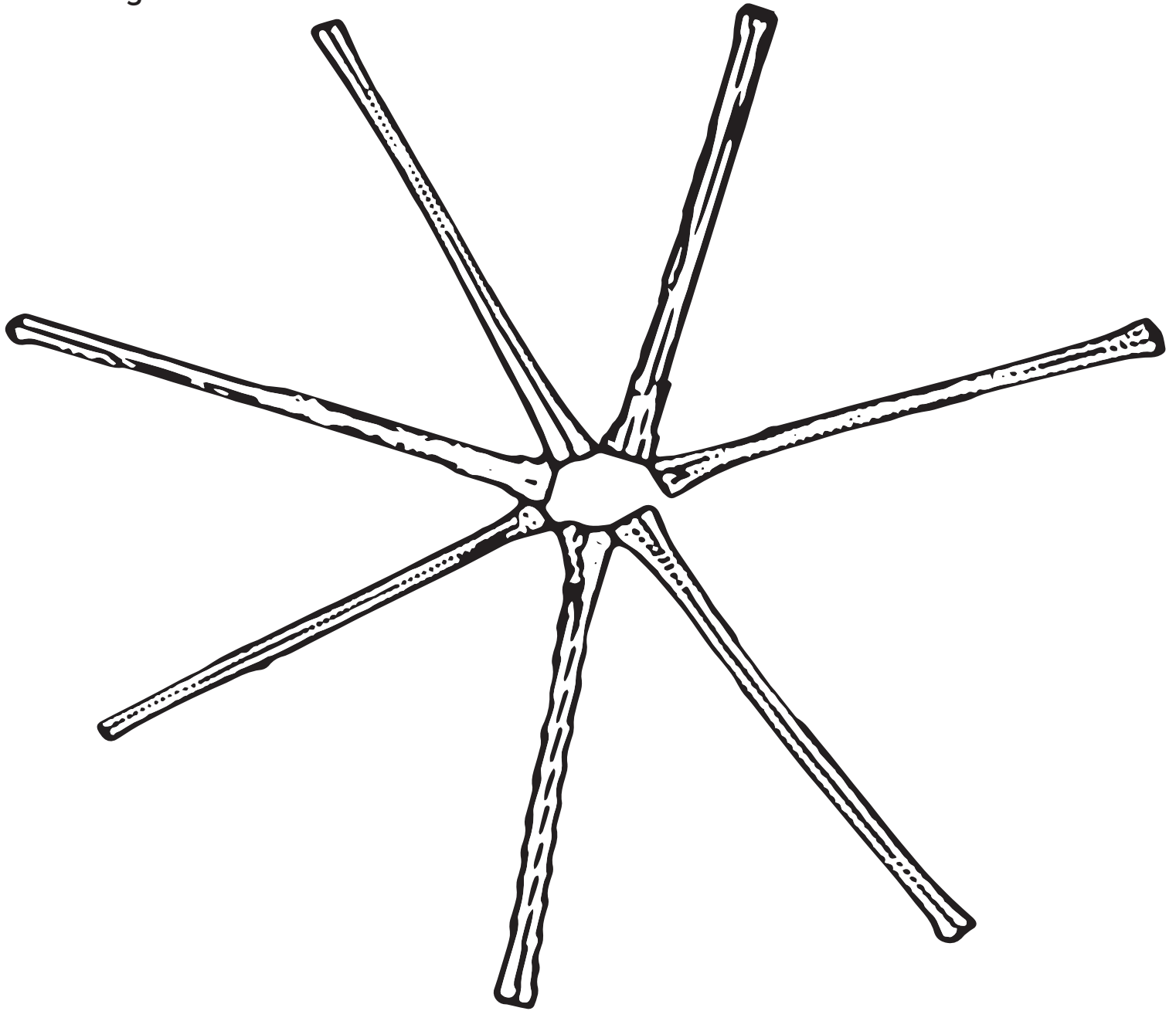
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Asterionella formosa

This star-shaped diatom is actually a colony made up of several individual diatoms! These diatoms are commonly found in lakes in the Northern hemisphere, like right here in Minnesota. If you could invent a new diatom, what would it look like?

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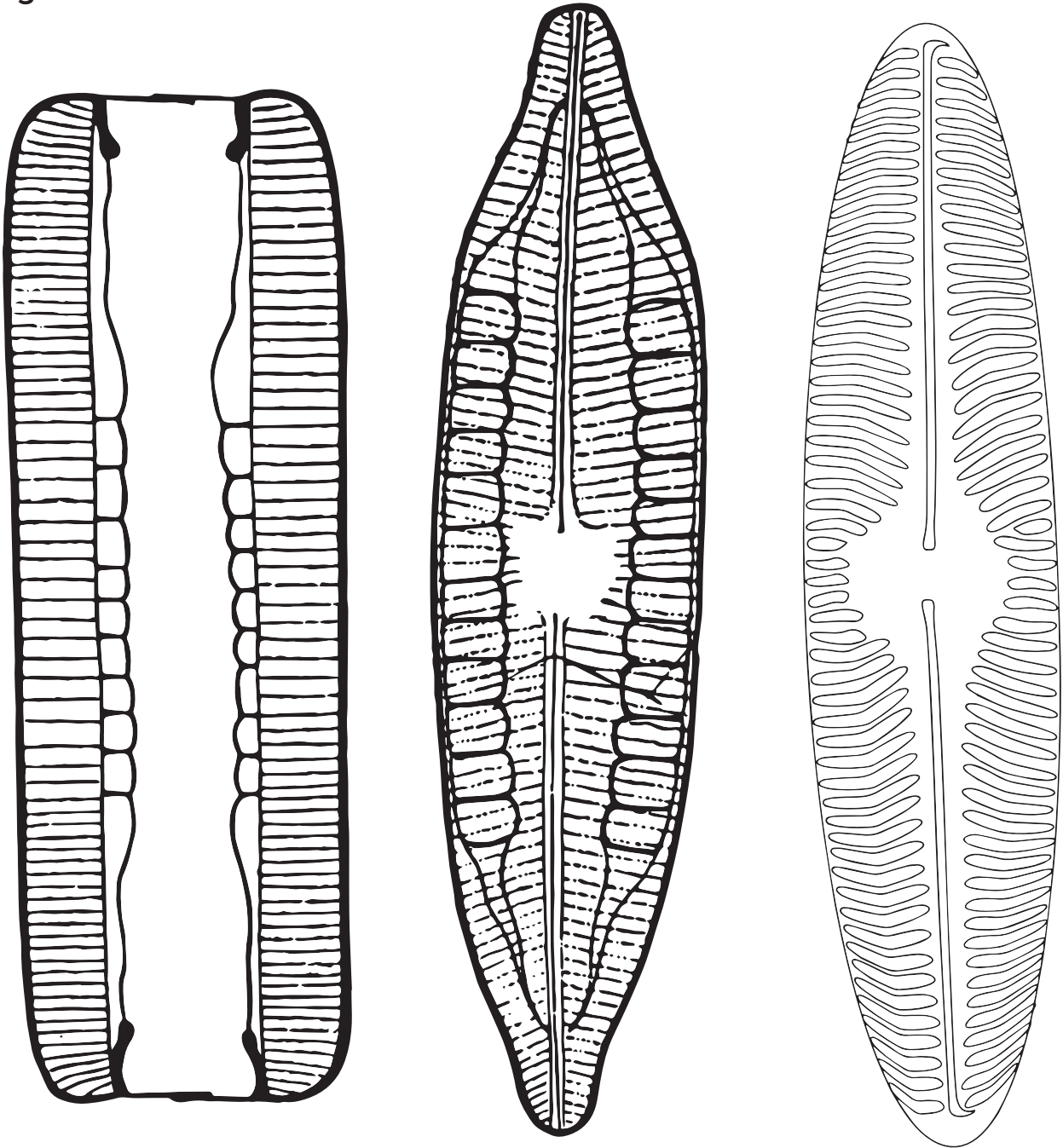
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***Mastogloia smithii* and *Pinnularia* species**

“There are an estimated 20,000 to 2 million species of diatoms so, chances are that when I look at a slide from a new location, I will see a diatom that I never have before.”

- Tori Thrash, Environmental Research Fellow

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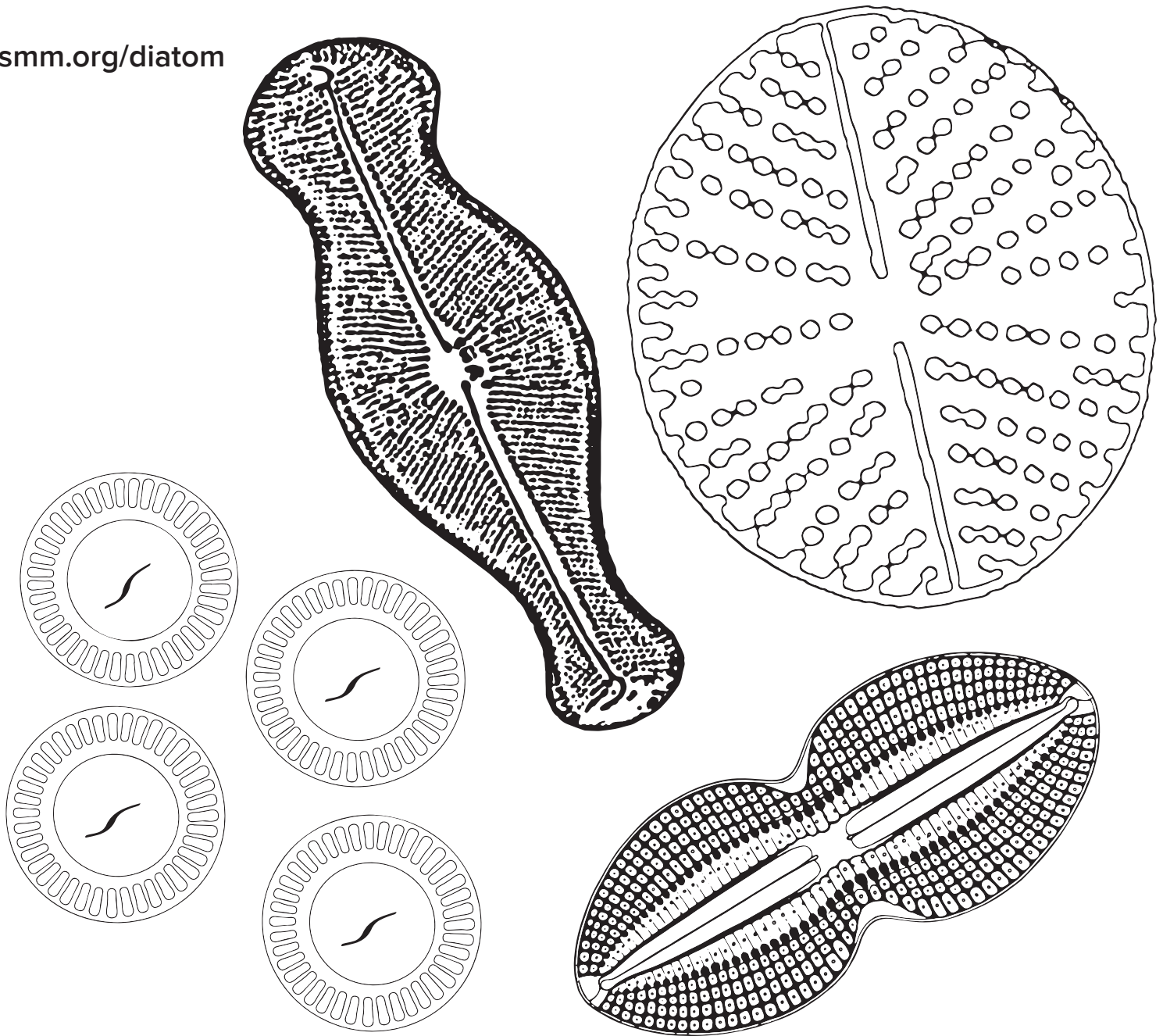
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Didymosphenia geminata, *Cyclotella meneghiniana*, *Cavinula scutelloides*, and *Diploneis bombus*

Because these types of algae are very sensitive to changes in water chemistry and other environmental factors, studying how the numbers of different species have changed over time is a reliable way to reconstruct historic conditions and guide restoration goals.

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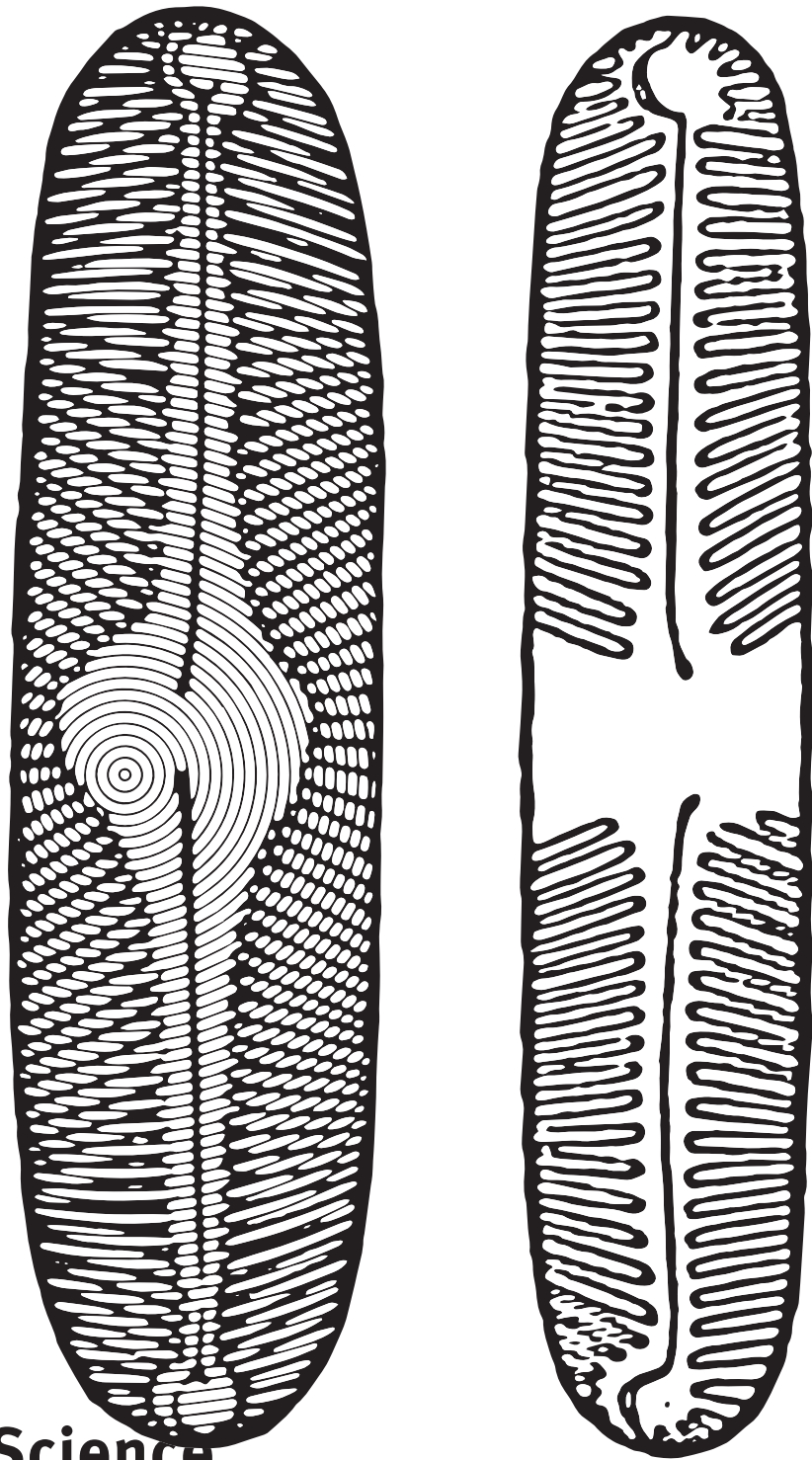
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Pinnularia mormonorm

In our diatom archive, we have 10,057 individual slides that represent 57 separate projects and 445 different lakes, ranging from Minnesota to Manitoba to Mongolia.

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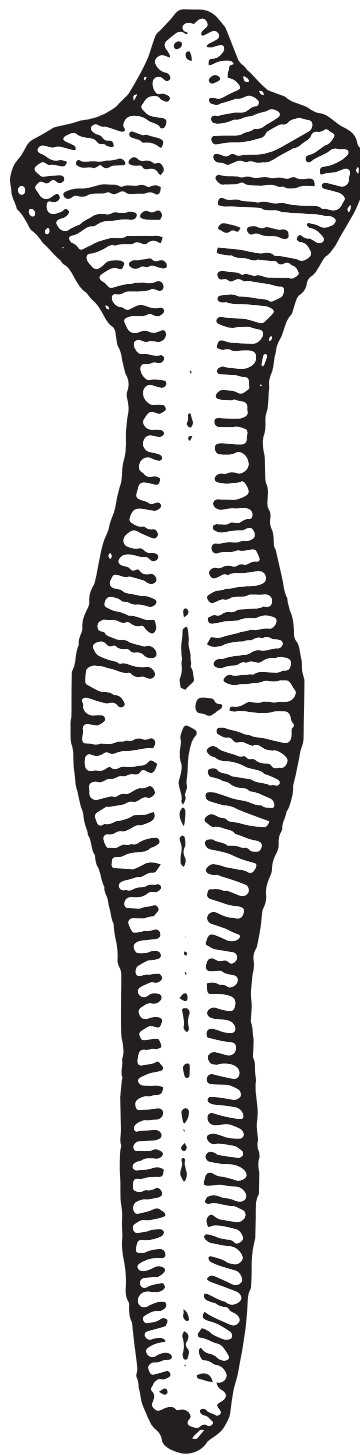
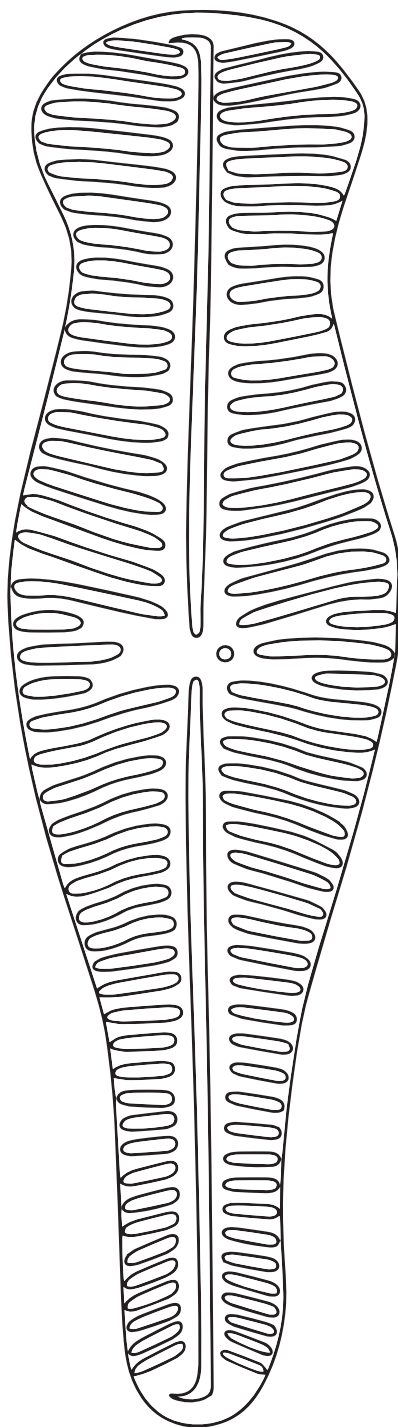
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Gomphonema truncatum* and *Gomphonema acuminatum

Diatoms are smaller than the width of a human hair!
Amazingly, their hard cell walls are often found preserved
in fossils. What do you think a diatom fossil would look like?

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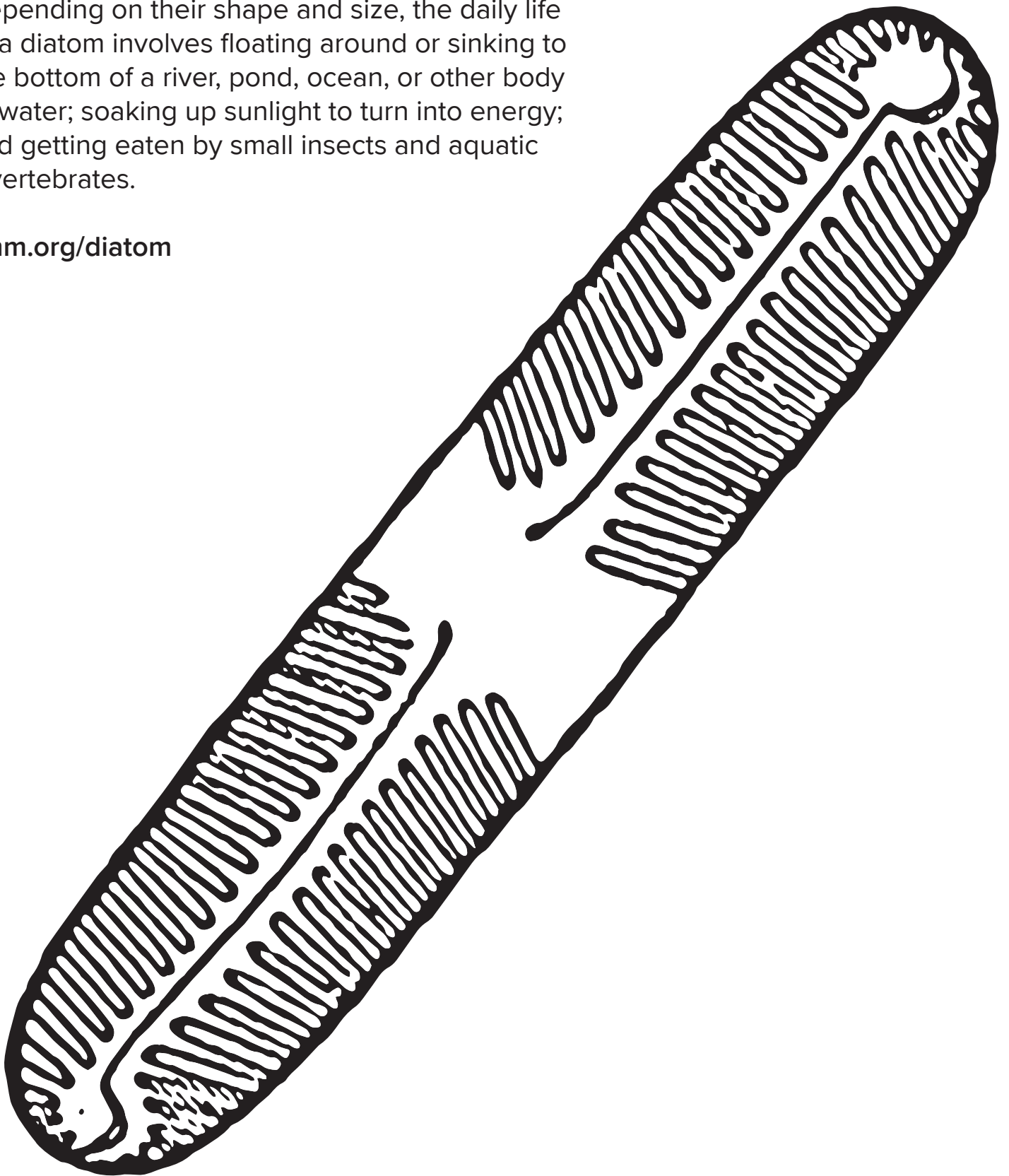
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Pinnularia mormonorm

Depending on their shape and size, the daily life of a diatom involves floating around or sinking to the bottom of a river, pond, ocean, or other body of water; soaking up sunlight to turn into energy; and getting eaten by small insects and aquatic invertebrates.

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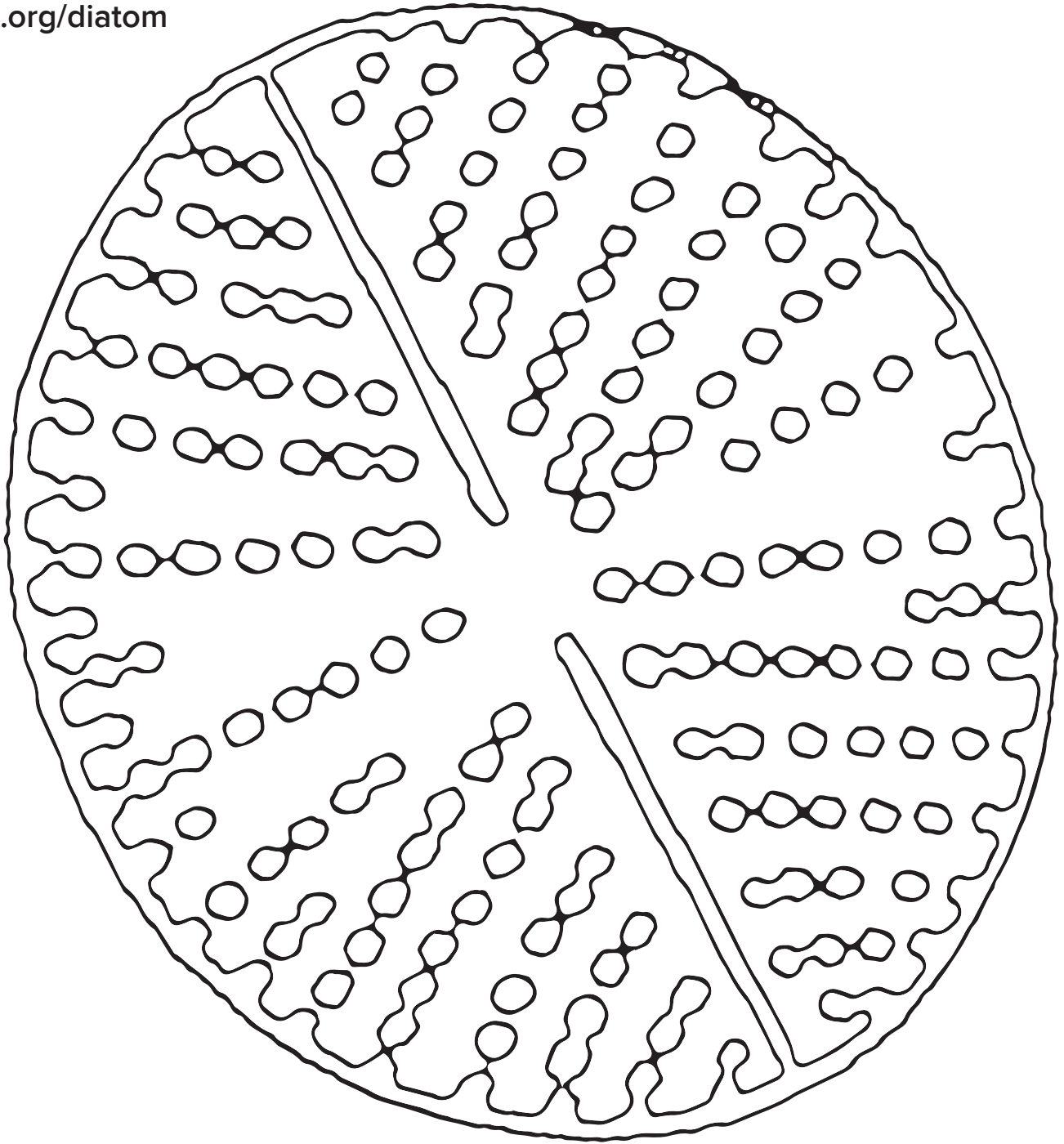
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Cavinula scutelloides

Did you know that climate change affects diatoms? Diatoms are critical because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and provide food to animals. What do these diatoms look like to you?

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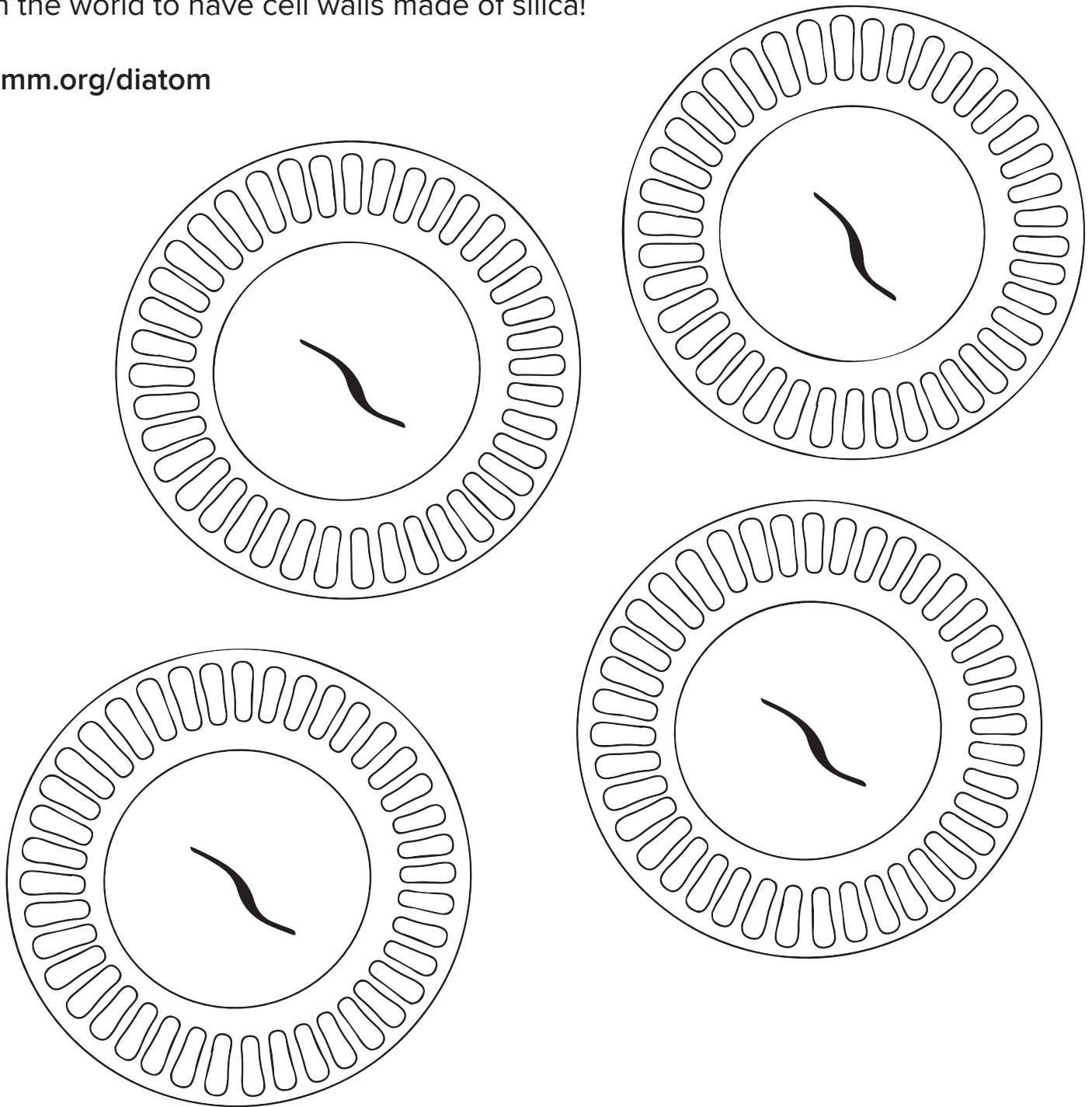
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Cyclotella meneghiniana

Cyclotella meneghiniana is a round diatom that is common in shallow, nutrient-rich water. Diatoms have outer shells made of silica, the same material that makes up glass. They are the only organism in the world to have cell walls made of silica!

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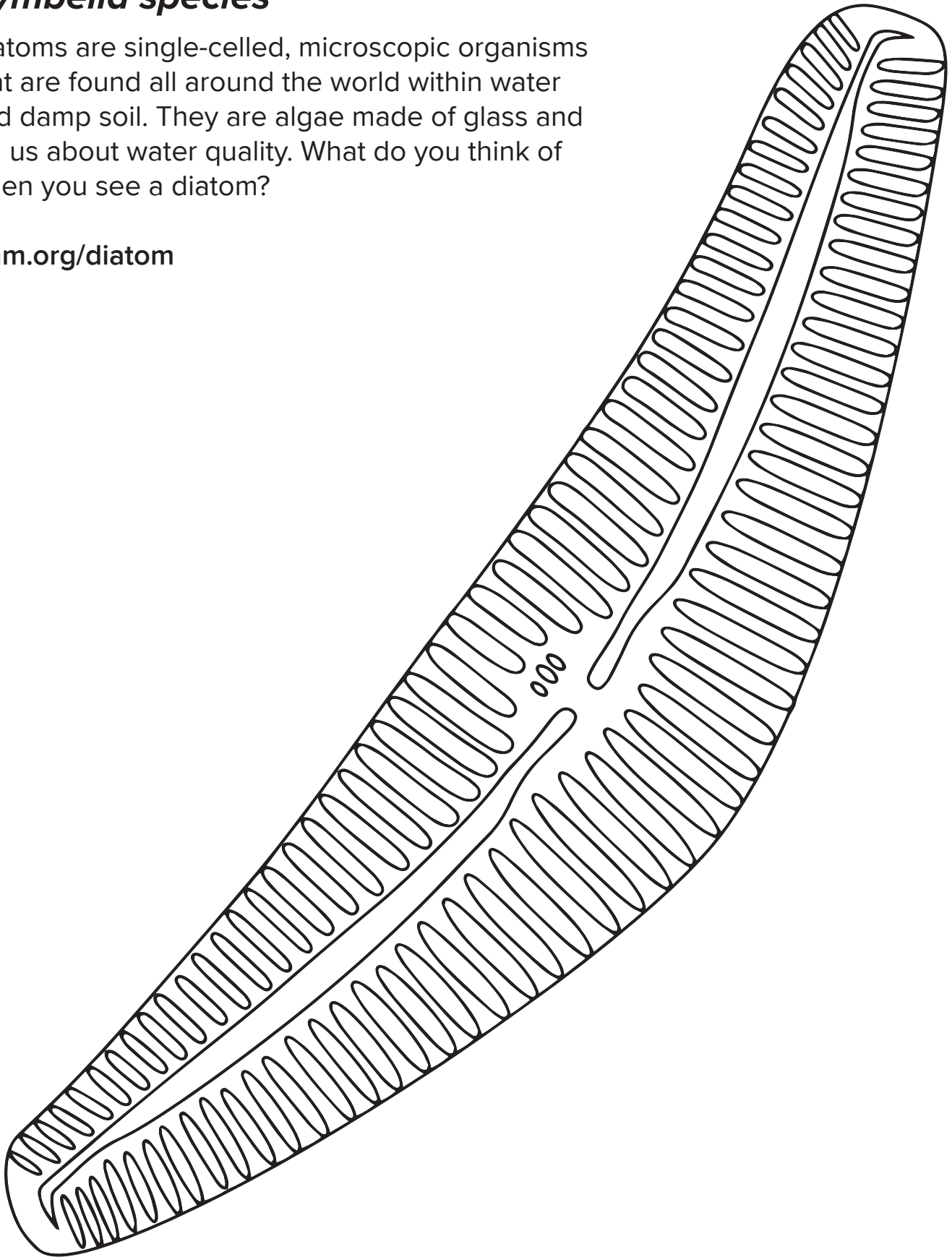
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Cymbella species

Diatoms are single-celled, microscopic organisms that are found all around the world within water and damp soil. They are algae made of glass and tell us about water quality. What do you think of when you see a diatom?

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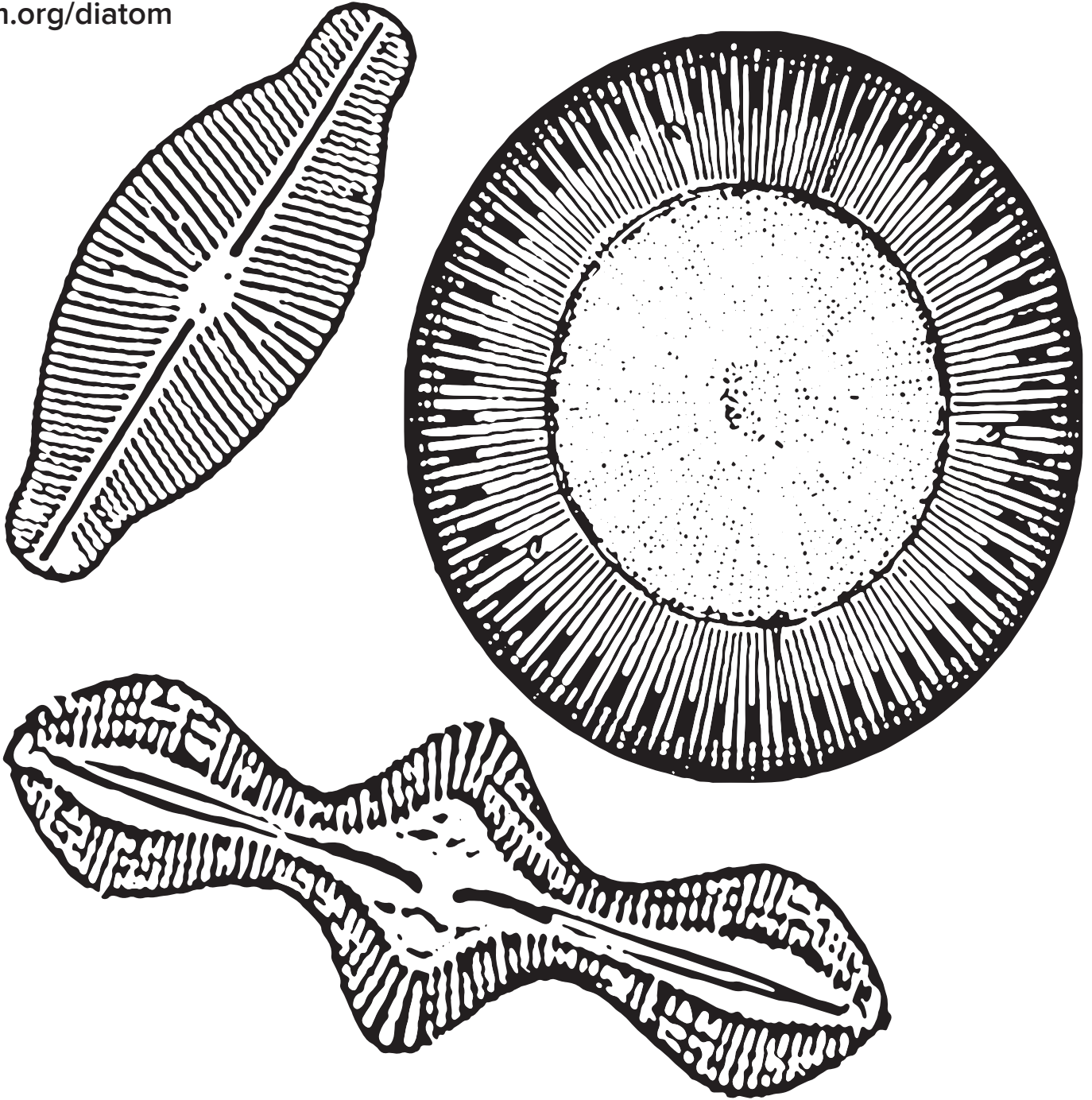


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***Achnanthes clevei*, *Caloneis lewisii*,
and *Puncticulata comta***

Our diatom slides hold approximately 2 BILLION diatoms of numerous species. Our scientists have identified and counted more than 300,000 of them.

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