

**TIME**  
FOR KIDS

# MIGHTY MICROS

*LITTLE THINGS • BIG RESULTS*



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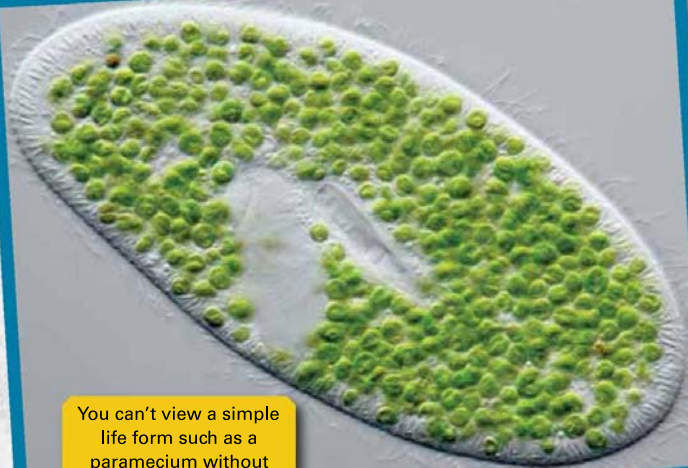
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# Mini but Mighty

People are often told to think big. But some of the most powerful creatures and objects in the world are tiny. Tweezers are needed to place the microchips that run in computers. People need a microscope to see the plankton in the ocean. Yet these and other puny powerhouses make big things happen. They can be humans' greatest helpers or their worst enemies.



You can't view a simple life form such as a paramecium without using a microscope.

# THINK LINK



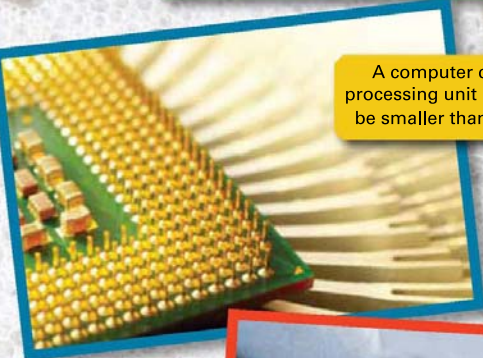
What is the natural role of tiny living things on Earth?




In what ways can tiny creatures wreak major damage?



How do very small machines and technology make our lives better?



A computer central processing unit (CPU) can be smaller than a dime.



The average microchip is about the size of a grain of rice.

Little things can cause both bad and good results. Bugs and bacteria can spread deadly diseases. Scientists work with atoms and tiny technology to make powerful weapons. But small living things are an important part of the life cycle. They can help plants, animals, and humans stay healthy.

## A Closer Look

People have wanted to take a closer look at tiny things for many years. Around 1590, Dutch eyeglass makers created the first light microscope. They placed two glass lenses in a tube. Objects looked larger through the tube. People have been studying smaller and smaller objects ever since.



Some of the first microscopes were made with glass, wood, cardboard, and fish scales.

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