

Microbes and Climate—Student Handout

We have already discussed why microbes are important and how they are *everywhere*! Now, we are going to look into how they play a vital role in our climate. The following microbes play a very important and specific role in our climate system.

Silicibacter pomeroyi

Emiliana

Nitrosomonas europaea

Prochlorococcus

Roseobacter denitrificans

Mycobacterium vanbaalenii

Your Task—You will be assigned a marine microbe from the list above and your job is to figure out how it plays an important role in the climate system. You will need to make ONE PowerPoint slide that contains the following information on your marine microbe:

- Scientific Name
- Color Picture (*be sure to cite your source*)
- Why this microbe is important to the climate system
(*make sure you explain this in your own words!*)

You will have a limited time (30 minutes) to do your research; you will then be expected to give a *brief* (2-3 minute) presentation to the class on your microbe.

Where do I start?

The MicrobeWiki website (listed below) is a great link to begin your research. You may use Google and other sites, but I highly recommend you start with MicrobeWiki. Micro*Scope is also a great website for digital images of microbes.

MicrobeWiki: <http://microbewiki.kenyon.edu/index.php/MicrobeWiki>

Micro*Scope: <http://starcentral.mbl.edu/microscope/portal.php>