

Each algal cell has a tiny, red "eyespot" to sense where light is. *Volvox* uses light to make its food.

"Daughter" colonies form inside, then emerge as independent baby colonies.

The colony is no bigger than this letter o, yet it is made up of 500 to 50,000 individual algal (AL-gull) cells, all in a single layer.

Spotlight Rolling Algae

This may look like a toy ball. But the magnified image shows an entire colony of a kind of algae called *Volvox* (VALL-vocks), which lives in many freshwater ponds. The name *Volvox* comes from a Latin word meaning "to roll" because each round, hollow colony moves by rolling through water.

Each individual cell has two hair-like flagella (fluh-JELL-uh) that face outside the "ball."

The colony's flagella beat in waves to roll the colony toward light.

Balance Challenge

If the two birds weigh the same, which way will the seesaw tip?

Think of your own best answer, then read our explanation in Answers on page 38.



BONUS
To balance the seesaw, which bird should move, and in which direction?