

Name: _____

Food Webs

Food chains, like the one that the mackerel is a part of, show how energy is transferred when one organism eats another. **Food webs** are many connected food chains within one habitat.

- Color the organisms in the boxes.
- Cut out the boxes.
- Using the clues arrange the boxes in a **food web**.
- Draw a sun on another piece of paper to start the food web.
- Use glue to stick the boxes on another sheet of paper.
- Use arrows to show which direction the energy is moving in the **food web**.

This is the mackerel food chain you learned about at Birch Aquarium:

Sun → Phytoplankton → Zooplankton → Anchovy → Mackerel → Tuna → White Shark

- Once you have completed your food chain, think about and answer the following questions:

1. What organism in our food web is the producer?

2. What animal or animals are the top predators in the food web you created?

3. What would happen to the rest of the food web if the mackerel disappeared?

4. Where would humans be in this food web? _____

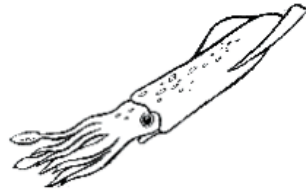
Bonus: add the tuna and shark from the original food chain to your food web

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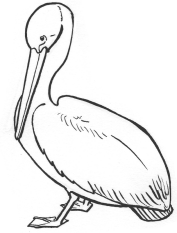
Zooplankton

I am one of the most numerous groups of animals in the sea. Ranging in size from a tiny copepod to a larger shrimp or krill, mackerel, smelt, and even squid depend on me.



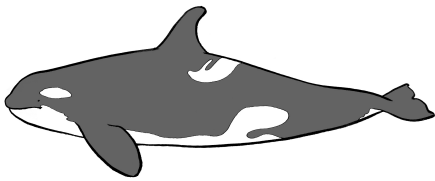
Squid

I use my long tentacles to catch food. I change my skin color to avoid many predators.



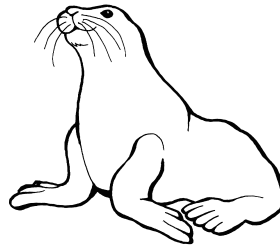
Brown Pelican

My bill has a large pouch for catching fish. My pouch can hold 2 gallons of water!



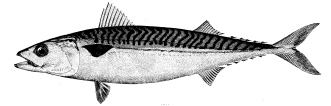
Orca

My pod mates and I use echolocation to find our prey, which can sometimes as big as a white shark.



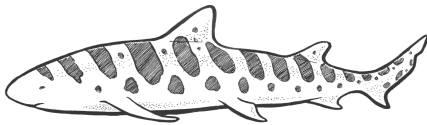
Sea Lion

My keen eyesight and sensitive whiskers help me hunt fish and squid.



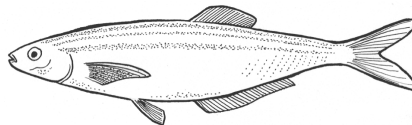
Mackerel

My streamlined body and countershading coloration helps me catch food and escape predators.



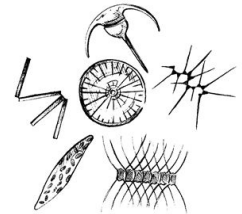
Leopard Shark

Though I camouflage with the sandy bottom to avoid predators, I swim into the deeper open ocean to feed on squid.



Anchovy

I might be a tiny fish by myself, but swimming in a large school helps me to avoid being eaten by other fish.



Phytoplankton

Tiny and plant-like, I am the foundation of ocean food webs because I make my own food using sunlight.