



SEA LIONS: SURFING THE WEB!



Observe sea lions at the zoo and learn about their food webs

GRADE 4

MATERIALS

- clipboards

KEY WORDS

- food web
- food chain
- predator
- prey

STANDARDS

- SCI.4.3.3

OBJECTIVES

- Students will observe sea lions at the zoo and answer questions based on those observations.
- Students will learn about the sea lion food chain and the predator/prey relationships in which sea lions are involved.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- A predator's choice of food and, in turn, the prey's food, can be thought of as a food chain. When linked together, several food chains become a food web, which can dramatically illustrate the interdependence of all animals within a given ecosystem.
- The main predator of the sea lion is the killer whale.

PROCEDURE

- Have students observe the sea lions at the zoo. Specifically, they should look for the characteristics listed on the worksheet and answer whether the characteristic is present or not. Each answer corresponds to a letter. These letters spell the missing link in the food chain in the upper right-hand corner of the worksheet.

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Discuss the observations with the class. Did any come as a surprise?

ANSWER KEY

1. yes
2. yes
3. fat
4. yes
5. no
6. right
7. oval
8. left
9. no
10. at surface
11. yes





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Continued

EXTENSIONS

- Discuss positive and negative feelings about predators. What are students' attitudes? Discuss the same issue before and after your zoo field trip. Have their attitudes changed?
- Have students assume the identity of a specific predator. Have them then write a diary entry for one 24-hour period in the life of their predator. Students should describe where each animal spends its day, what it hunted, how it hunted, whether or not it was successful in its hunt, and whether it remained hungry, etc.

TEACHER HINTS

- At different times during the day, sea lion keepers put on feeding shows. During these shows, sea lion behaviors are featured. These shows will make it easier for students to observe the sea lions and correctly answer the questions.

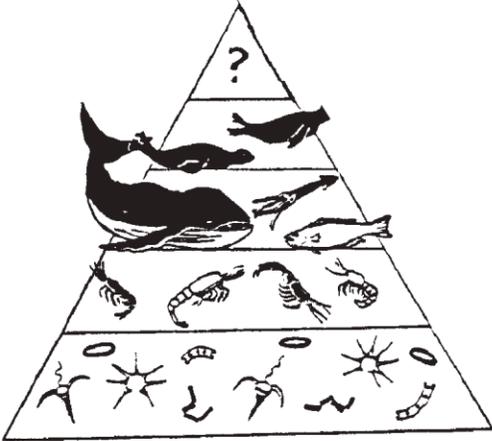




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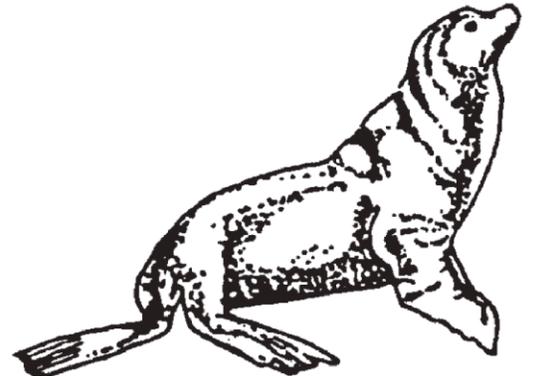
Name _____



All living things need energy! As this is passed from one living thing to another, a food chain is formed. Interlocking food chains make a food web.

The pyramid diagram shows a food chain for the SEA LION at the zoo. Notice how one section of the pyramid is empty. To fill in the top of the pyramid with the name of the sea lion's predator, observe the sea lions for a while. Place an "X" on the line above the best answer to each observation. Then fill in the blanks below.

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. ear holes | _____ [K] | _____ [C] |
| | Yes | No |
| 2. ear lobes | _____ [I] | _____ [H] |
| | Yes | No |
| 3. body weight | _____ [E] | _____ [L] |
| | Yes | No |
| 4. fur | _____ [L] | _____ [E] |
| | Yes | No |
| 5. short whiskers | _____ [T] | _____ [E] |
| | Yes | No |
| 6. teeth | _____ [A] | _____ [R] |
| | Yes | No |
| 7. body shape | _____ [H] | _____ [W] |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. rear flipper | _____ [H] | _____ [S] |
| | | |
| 9. tusk | _____ [A] | _____ [L] |
| | No | Yes |
| 10. breathes | _____ [A] | _____ [L] |
| | Underwater | At surface |
| 11. Makes noise | _____ [E] | _____ [R] |
| | Yes | No |



The main predator of the sea lion: (copy the letter beside each "X")

