



## Who Eats What?

### PROGRAM GOALS

- 🍃 Learn about marine organisms' dynamics and behaviors
- 🍃 To understand how the food chain works

### GRADES

4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>

### MATERIALS

- 🍃 Computers
- 🍃 Pencils

### STANDARDS

- 🍃 SCI.4.3.3
- 🍃 SCI.5.3.1
- 🍃 SCI.6.3.1
- 🍃 SCI.6.3.5

### RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- 🍃 Check students' work for accuracy
- 🍃 Have students present their findings to class

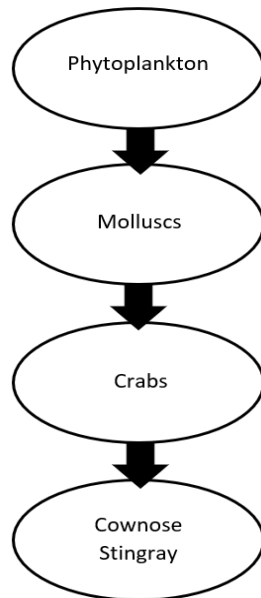
Practice your students' critical thinking skills as they learn about the food chain in the oceans. Marine animals eat plants and animals they find nearby. Phytoplankton make their own food, and they are eaten by zooplankton. Zooplankton is eaten by larger animals, and the food chain continues. See below for a variety of questions to engage your students even further:

- 🍃 Do you know much about this animal?
- 🍃 Try to think of an animal that you don't know much about it!
- 🍃 What does this animal eat?
- 🍃 Is it at the top of the food chain?
- 🍃 What's their feeding behavior like?

Share the stingray example to class and encourage students to research one animal that they do not know much about to help expand their knowledge on marine species. Answer students' questions the best you can as they research individually on their animal. It is okay if they don't fill in all the circles. Once they completed their research, have them share their findings with the class.

Each animal in an ecosystem has a specific place in many food chains. Share your lessons with the Fort Wayne Children' Zoo. Tag #fwkidszoo or email [education@kidszoo.org](mailto:education@kidszoo.org) to express how you used these supplemental activities!

### Example:



1. What other food does your animal eat?  
Stingrays eat molluscs, crabs, lobsters, oysters, and fish.

2. How much does your animal need to eat per day?  
A stingray will eat half its body weight per day. Some cownose stingrays can grow to 40 pounds so that they would consume 20 pounds per day.

3. Describe how does your animal eats?  
They have a downward-facing mouth, which is filled with stubby teeth that crush clams and snail shells. After the flesh is consumed, the shell fragments are spit out.

4. How is your animal able to find their food?  
They find food by smelling, touching, and detecting small electrical fields emitted by every animal. This is done through "ampullae of lorenzini," which are gel-filled pores that can detect electric currents and send signals to the brain.

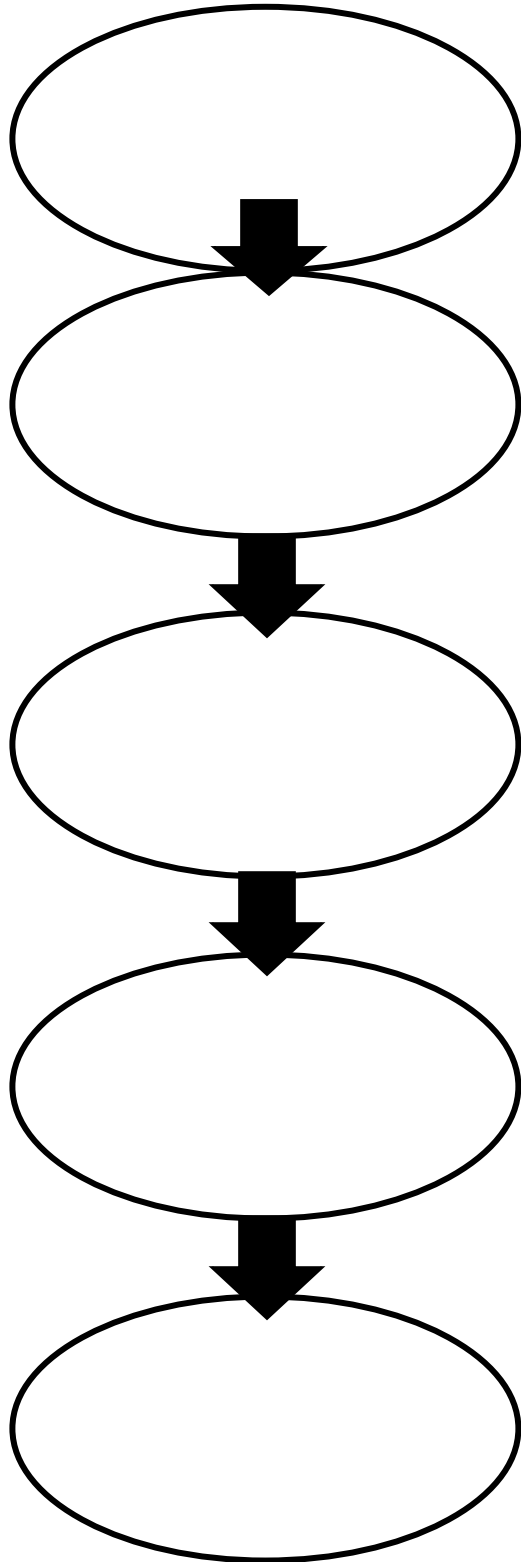




# Ocean Food Chain

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Choose a marine animal that is higher up in the food chain. Fill in the food chain with the corresponding animals based on your



1. What other food does your animal eat?

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2. How much does your animal need to eat per day?

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3. Describe how does your animal eat?

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4. How is your animal able to find their food?

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