

# THE MARINE FOOD WEB / LESSON OVERVIEW

## Objectives

**The students will:**

- Learn what a food chain and food web are;
- Learn the effects of removing an animal from a food chain or food web;
- Learn understand the roles of producers, consumers, and decomposers in a marine ecosystem;
- Learn how to describe the flow of energy through food webs.

## Lesson Summary

**Part 1. Introduction**

All plants and animals require energy to survive. Energy cannot be created or destroyed, but it can be stored and recycled. Organisms transfer recycled energy by consuming one another in a complex web of life.

**Part 2. Food Chains**

Students will define the term "food chain" and understand the flow of energy that originates with the Sun.

**Part 3. Food Webs**

Students will define the term "food web" and understand that it is a much more complex system of energy transfer compared to a food chain. Students will learn about trophic levels and how organisms are connected in food webs.

**Activity 1. Web of Life**

In this activity, students demonstrate both a simple food chain and a complex food web. They will discuss and hypothesize how all these animals interact with each other and how the ecosystem may be affected when an animal or plant is added or removed from this web.

## Materials

- Ball of yarn
- Pictures of marine organisms (one for every student)