

Food web game instructions

1. Move to an open space, like a school hall or outside. Explain that together you're going to make a marine food web. Ask if students know what a food web is (a connection of food chains).
2. Stand in a large circle and hand out the food web elements cards to some students (there are 14 cards so won't be enough for one each).
3. Draw attention to the smaller text showing where the organism gets its energy. Remind children this is really important for the game.
4. Start with the sun, and ask who gets their energy from the sun (plankton and seaweed). Explain that these are producers. Connect these to the sun using separate pieces of string.
5. Now ask who gets their energy from seaweed, and link with string.
6. Work through one food chain at a time, using a different length of string for each food chain.
7. Explain that the creature at the end of the food chain is a predator.
8. Continue until all food chains are complete. This will form a visual food web.

This activity should take no more than 10 minutes. If you have time then complete extension activity.



Food web game instructions

EXTENSION

1. Ask students what they think might happen to the food web if one of the animals disappeared, for example, if mussels were overfished. Then remove mussels (person holding shellfish lets go of string).
2. Children should identify the impact of this loss, i.e. animals feeding on mussels would have less food, possibly impacting their numbers. Those students holding cards that eat mussels should then be removed by letting go of the string.
3. Observe how this has impacted the web. Discuss how creatures that mussels feed on may increase in number because of lack of prey.
4. Explain that each element within a food web can affect the others.



Human

Eats whelk, edible crab, mussels, flatfish and seaweed



Orca

Eats otter



Seal

Eats flatfish



Flatfish

Eats mussels



Mussels

Eats plankton



Whelk

Eats hermit crab and mussels



Hermit crab

Eats seaweed



Otter

Eats urchin



Urchin

Eats seaweed



Edible crab

Eats worm, mussels and seaweed



Worm

Eats whelk, edible crab, flatfish and seaweed



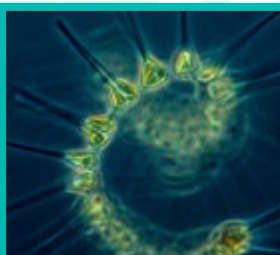
Basking shark

Eats plankton



Plankton

Gets energy from the sun



Seaweed

Gets energy from the sun



Food web worksheet

Apex
Predators

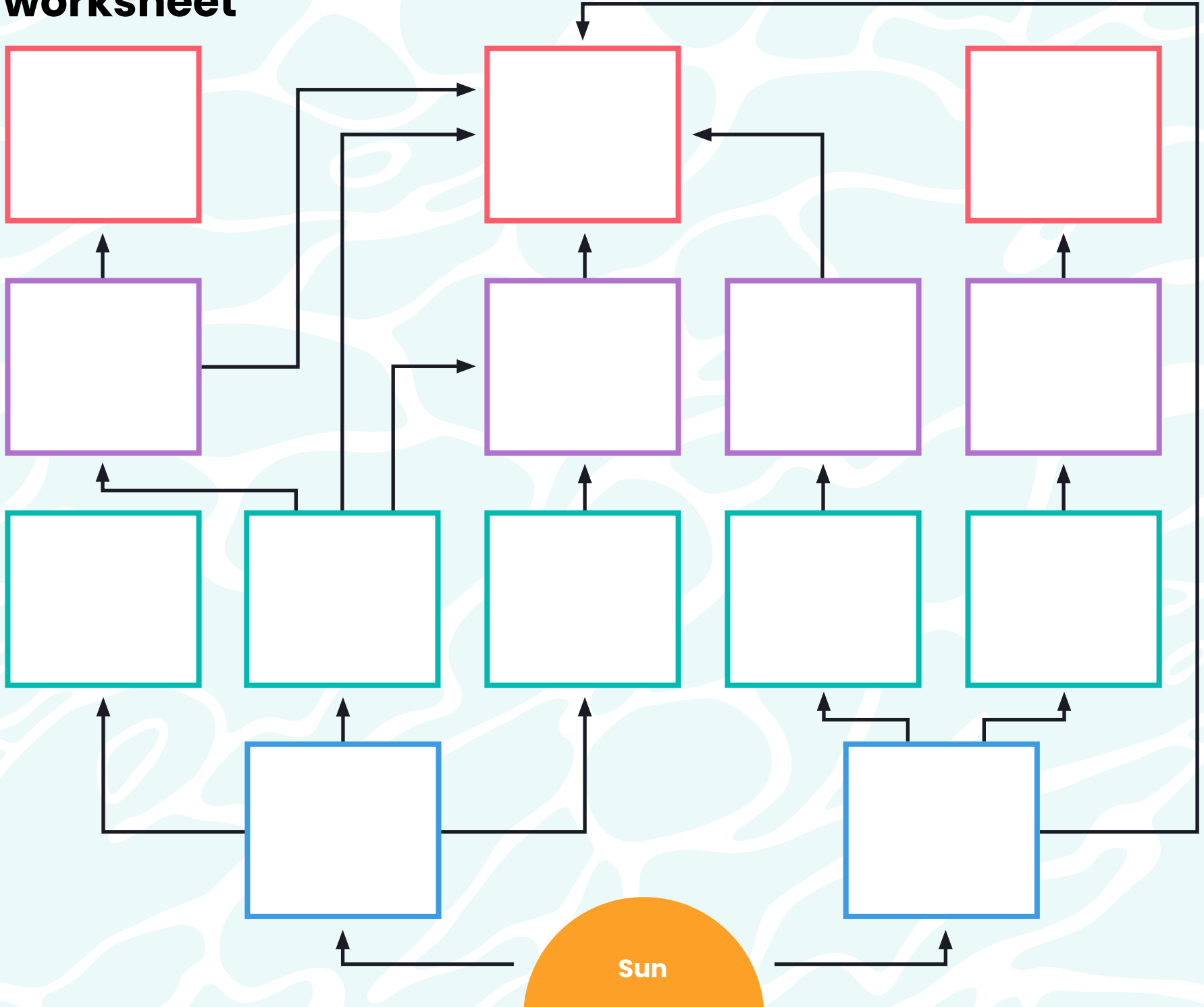
Secondary
Consumers

Primary
Consumers

Producers

Energy

Sun



Food web worksheet

Apex predators

Secondary consumers

Primary consumers

Producers

Energy

