

Scrambled Food Chain

Directions: Read the information about each of the organisms below, and then create a food chain. Label your food chain with arrows to show energy flow and the trophic levels (producer, primary consumer, secondary consumer, and tertiary consumer).

Zooplankton: Zooplankton are a group of small animals that drift through the ocean and feed on tiny plants. The plants provide them with energy, some of which they use and some of which they pass on when they are eaten. Examples of zooplankton are jellyfish and krill.

Dolphins: Dolphins are large sea mammals. They are fast and very skilled at catching prey. Dolphins have very few predators.

Phytoplankton: Phytoplankton are one-celled organisms that live near the surface of the ocean. These tiny plants capture the Sun's energy and convert it into glucose, a compound that all ocean organisms need to survive.

Herring: Herring are small fish that feed upon smaller animals at the ocean's surface. They swim with their mouths open, filtering their prey from the water as it passes over their gills. They feed on the surface only at night, when there is less chance of predation by larger animals.

Place your food chain here:

Questions

1. Which of the organisms in this food chain are carnivores?
2. Where would you place decomposers on the food chain?
3. Which of the organisms on this food chain are the herring's prey?
4. What happens to the energy that the herring take in when they consume their prey?
5. Why are there usually more producers than primary consumers in a food chain?