



Live Dive: Sixth Grade Pre-Program Activity

Before the Live Dive

When you schedule a Live Dive broadcast, you will be sent eight park brochures as part of your confirmation. They will be used in this activity.

Materials One park brochure per table group (four to six students)
One species ID key per table group
One copy of activity sheet for each group or for each student
Pencils

Duration 30 minutes

Vocabulary Producer, primary consumer, secondary consumer, third-level consumer, decomposer

Procedure Allow students to work through the activity sheet, either in small groups or independently. Review their responses as a whole class when complete.

Answer Key Students will have a variety of food chains, involving the following levels:
Producers—giant bladder kelp, surf grass, red algae
Primary consumers—chiton, sea urchin, barnacle, abalone, kelp snail
Secondary consumers—lobster, squid, anemone, nudibranch, scallop, rock crab, opal eye, blacksmith, señorita, top smelt, Garibaldi
Third-level consumers—sheephead, bat ray, horn shark, seagull, pelican, cormorant, snowy plover, oyster catcher, sea lion, elephant seal, scuba diver
Decomposers—sea cucumber, bat star, rock crab, lobster

Producers' roles—habitat (shelter), food, oxygen

Examples—opal eye hiding among the kelp blades, sea urchins eating kelp for food, kelp photosynthesizing to produce oxygen

Consumers' roles—eating other organisms to keep their population stable, providing food for other organisms

Examples—sheephead eat sea urchins so their population remains stable (doesn't overpopulate), a blacksmith is a meal for a sea lion

Decomposers' roles—breaking down organic material, recycling energy into the ecosystem

Examples—rock crabs breaking down dead fish into smaller pieces; sea cucumbers feeding on organic material and then being eaten by a sea gull

Extensions Students can learn more about the process of scientific data collection by doing Exercise 4.2 (Eyes on the Ecosystem) in *From Shore to Sea*, Story 4:
www.nps.gov/chis/forteachers/classrooms/from-shore-to-sea-curriculum.htm