

Science Story Adventures



Food Chains

Learning outcomes

» Students know different animals inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places. (Grade 1 - Life Sciences)

» Students know animals eat plants or other animals for food and may also use plants or even other animals for shelter and nesting. (Grade 1 - Life Sciences)

» Students know plants are the primary source of matter and energy entering most food chains. (Grade 4 - Life Sciences)

» Students know producers and consumers (herbivores, carnivores, omnivores, and decomposers) are related in food chains and food webs and may compete with each other for resources in an ecosystem. (Grade 4 - Life Sciences)

From: California's Science Content Standards

Books we read

Who Eats What by Patricia Lauber

A Most Unusual Lunch by Robert Bender

Earth Mother by Ellen Jackson

Activities we did

» We made a simple food chain:

Sun -> kelp -> purple sea urchin -> sea otter

Then we discussed what would happen if hunters killed all the sea otters.

» We made an Arctic food web: http://online.santarosa.edu/homepage/cgalt/BIO10-Stuff/Ch20-Ecology-Communities-Ecosystems-Human_Impact/Antarctic-Food-Web.jpg

» We discussed the difference between food webs and food chains. We thought about what would happen to this food web if there were no fish.

Today's craft: Sea Otter Paper Bag Puppet



You will need:

- » Sea otter template (included)
- » Paper lunch bag
- » Crayons
- » Scissors
- » Glue

Directions:

1. Color the sea otter, rock and clam.
2. Cut out all the pieces.
3. Glue the otter's face on the flap at the bottom of the bag. Then, glue on the clam, rock, front and back paws and tail.
5. Your puppet is ready to play with.

From: http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/PDF_files/activities/aquarium_otter_puppet.pdf

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

Food Chains and You by Bobbie Kalman. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QH541.14 .K34 2005
How do we humans get our energy from food chains?

Desert Food Chains by Bobbie Kalman. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QH541.5 .D4 K35 2005

Forest Food Chains by Bobbie Kalman. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QH541.5 .F6 K34 2005

Meadow Food Chains by Bobbie Kalman. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QH541.5 .M4 K34 2005

These three books describe how animals in different habitats get their energy from food chains.

This is the Sea that Feeds Us by Robert F. Baldwin. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QH541.5 .S3 B35 1998

A story in rhyme that portrays the ocean's intricate food web, with each verse introducing another hungry creature, from the tiny plankton up to a grateful family of humans.

DVDs

What's on Your Plate? Nat. Ctr. Media TX353 .W5138 2009
A documentary about kids and food politics that includes a section in which the kids explore their place in the food chain.

Websites

Chain Reaction

Make a food chain and then see what happens if one of the links in the chain disappears.

http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/eco_info/topics/frogs/chain_reaction/index.cfm

The Food Chain

Lots of information and some fun games to play.

<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/content/animals/kid-scorner/foodchain/foodchain.htm>

Food Chains and Cycles

Looks at food chains and how energy flows through them.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science/add_aqa/foodchains/foodchains1.shtml

Interesting Facts About Food Chains

Suitable for older kids, this website looks at more complex food chains and webs.

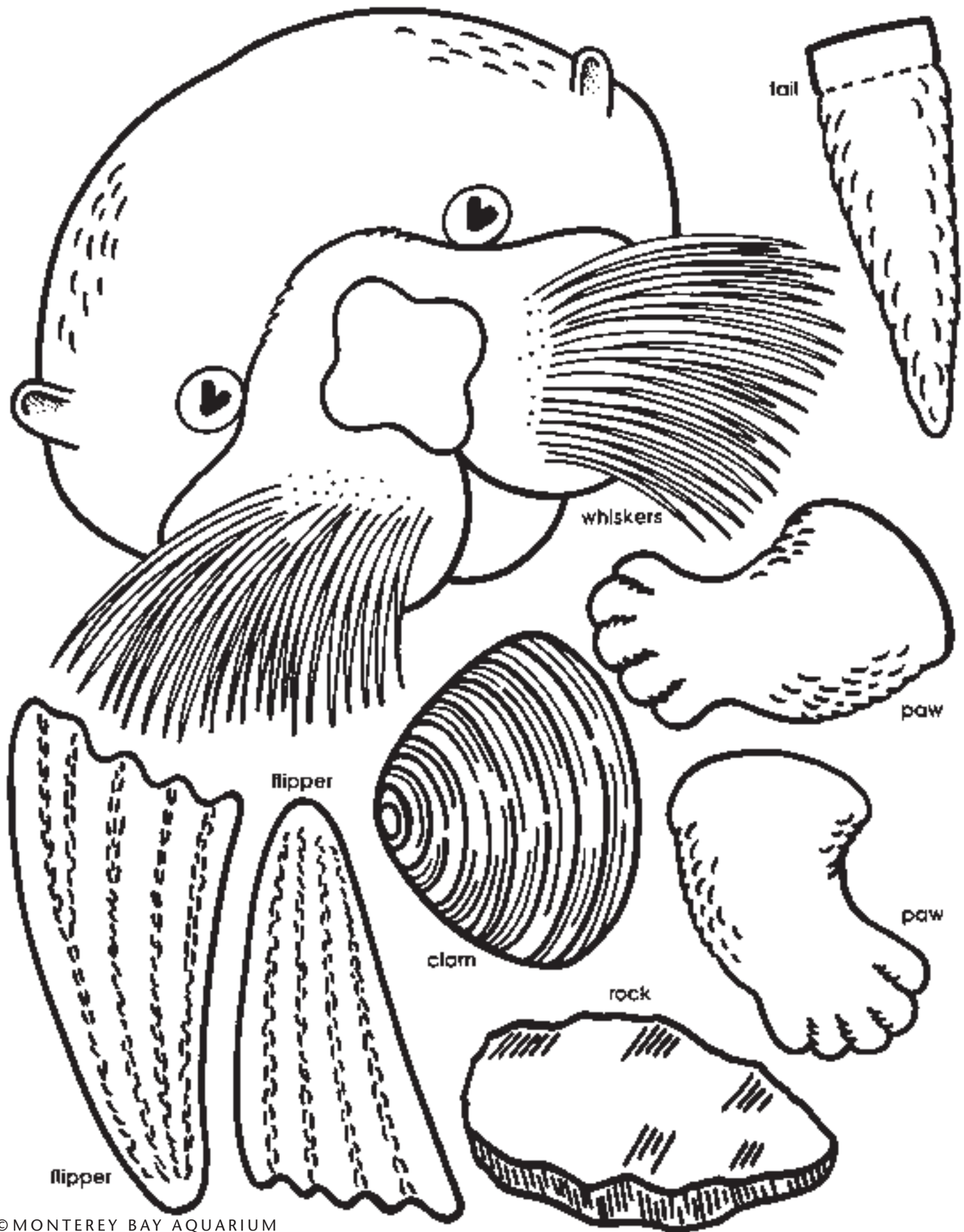
http://ejad.best.vwh.net/java/population/facts_foodchain.html

Kids Konnect

Gives a safe Internet gateway to sites with information on food chains and webs.

<http://www.kidskonnect.com/subject-index/15-science/77-food-chain.html>

Puppet Pieces/Las piezas del títere nutria



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English: http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/lc/activities/otter_puppet.asp

Español: http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/lc/activities/otter_puppet_es.asp