Food Web Mobile

Who eats who? Create this simplified version of an ocean food web to find out! Sharks are carnivores, so they get energy by eating other animals. Predators like sharks help keep prey populations balanced. If a prey population gets too big, they might deplete their own food source. Food webs can show us how everything is connected.

Materials

1 clothes hanger (or a straight rod, like a chopstick or a skewer)
Crayons, or colored pencils
String (yarn)
Scissors
Print-out templates (pages 2–3)
Hole punch (optional)
Tape (optional)

Directions

1. Print the templates on pages 2-3.
2. Color the ocean life. Do you recognize any of the animals? What do you think they like to eat?
3. Cut out each rectangle template. Then, punch out the holes using a hole puncher or pencil.
4. Cut 14 pieces of string to about 6 inches long (or about the length of your hand).
5. Line up the templates by number with 1 at the top and 6 at the bottom, then tape or tie them together with string. Energy in the food web flows from the sun to plants, then to animals who eat plants, then to animals who eat other animals. Where do you get your energy from?
6. Tie the food chain to the clothes hanger with the last two pieces of string.
7. Hang your mobile. Where can you find sharks in the food web? Are they predators, prey, or both? How do sharks help keep the ocean healthy?