

# Web of Life Instruction Sheet

## Game Instructions:

First, ask the children these questions to help get them thinking about where food comes from:

- Where do we get our energy from? Answer: the plants and animals we eat
- Where do animals get their energy from? Answer: the plants and animals they eat
- Where do plants get their energy from? Answer: the sun

Species	What they need/eat
Plankton	Sunlight
Algae (seaweed)	Sunlight
Crab	Algae
Krill (small shrimps)	Plankton, algae
Small fish	Plankton
Squid	Crab, small fish, krill
Seabird	Small fish, crab,
Seal	Small fish, squid, seabirds
Dolphin	Small fish, squid, plankton, krill
Orca (killer whale)	Seals, squid, small fish, seabirds, and other dolphin

1. Have your group create a circle shape. Give each young person a marine species from the list. All 10 should be included. If you have more than 10 young people, have extra of some species.
2. They can warm up by acting like that plant or animal – what does it look like? How does it move? Does it make any noise?
3. It's time to start thinking about who relies on who! Pass the ball of twine to the orca. The orca should keep hold of the end of the string and then pass the ball of string to anyone it eats, i.e. anyone who is a seal, squid, small fish or a seabird! Does anything eat the orca?
4. Whoever now has the ball of string should think about what they eat, and what eats them! Holding onto their end, they should pass the ball of string to those species.
5. This repeats until everybody is connected by the string or until you have gone through every species. It can continue until species have many connections and hands full of string!
6. Once the food web is complete, ask your group what they think would happen if you remove a species? All life on earth relies on the sun! If there was no sunlight, we would have no plankton and algae. Anyone who is plankton or algae, ask them to release/drop the string they are holding. Next, those who eat plankton and algae should then be removed, followed by those who eat those now removed animals. What is happening to the food web? It's collapsing because everything is connected!

