

Computer Lab Instructions

Each group gets a pile of flashcards with “major players” from a marine habitat (using the file “Marine Habitats Flashcards”).

Computer Lab

Using online sources, research the life history and food preferences of these species.

1. For each species, they should answer these questions:
 - a. What does it eat?
 - b. Who eats it?
 - c. Does it provide habitat for other species? (for example, by digging holes, providing shelter, or clearing away plants or rocks)
 - d. What is an interesting or surprising fact about this species?
2. Identify another species from this habitat and figure out how it interacts with the species you’ve been provided.
3. After you are done with online research, take your notes back to class and work with your group to arrange all your species into a food web.
 - a. Place the primary producer(s) on the bottom, and the top predator on top.
 - b. Once you have your cards arranged, check with other groups and the teacher to make sure it is correct.

Poster

4. Draw your food web on a piece of poster paper.
 - a. Make sure pictures and words are large enough to be seen from across the classroom.
 - b. Draw arrows between species. The arrow points from the organism being eaten to the organism doing the eating.
 - c. Make sure you include arrows to show that every thing is eventually either 1) is recycled and returned to the bottom of the food web, or 2) sinks out and falls to the seafloor.
5. Using the rubric, prepare to present on your food web poster for the next day.

Presentation (4 minutes per presentation, max.):

6. Explain to the class your food web.
 - a. Introduce us to your habitat: where in the world can it be found? Does it occur near San Diego? Why should we care about this habitat?
 - b. Describe interactions between species. Be sure to mention who your primary producer(s) is, who the top predator is, and who the dominant (most numerous) species are.
 - c. Justify your placement of the species in the order you’ve drawn.
 - d. You will be graded according to the Presentation Rubric.