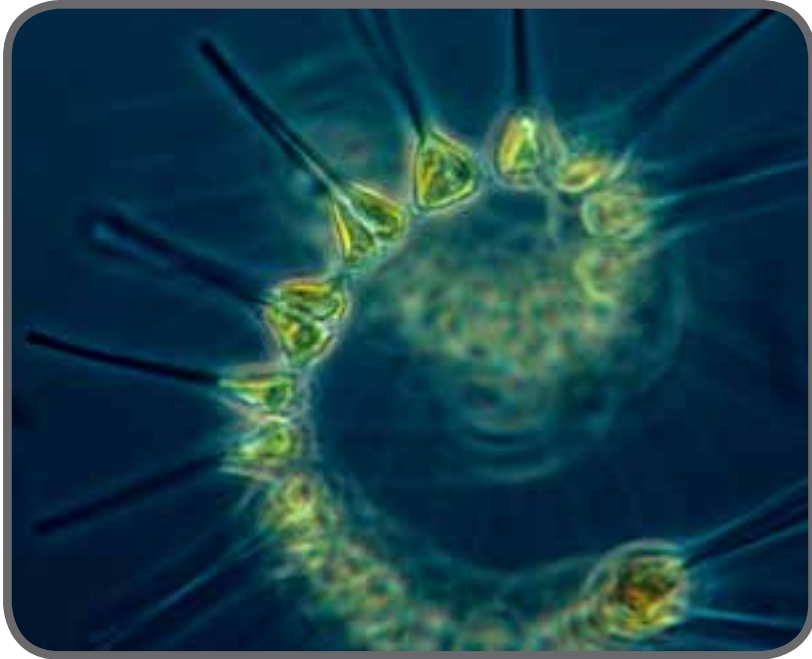


# PHYTOPLANKTON

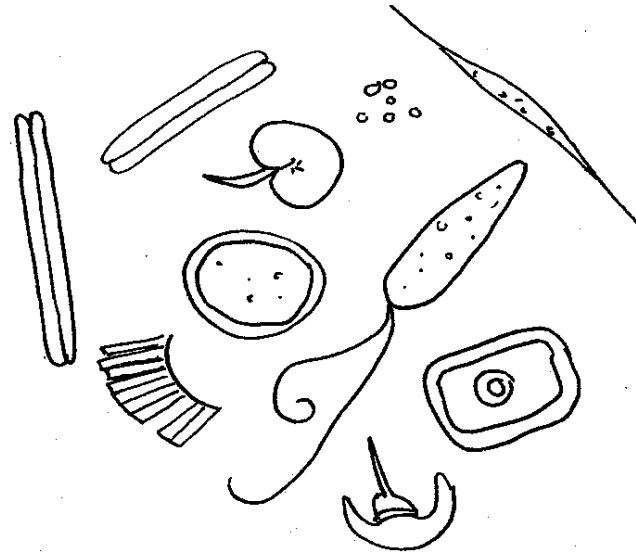


NOAA

Phytoplankton are very small algae. They use the energy from sunlight to make their own food in a process called photosynthesis. They also need nutrients from the ocean water to produce their food.

## I am...

(name of organism)



I am a (circle all that apply)

producer

herbivore

carnivore

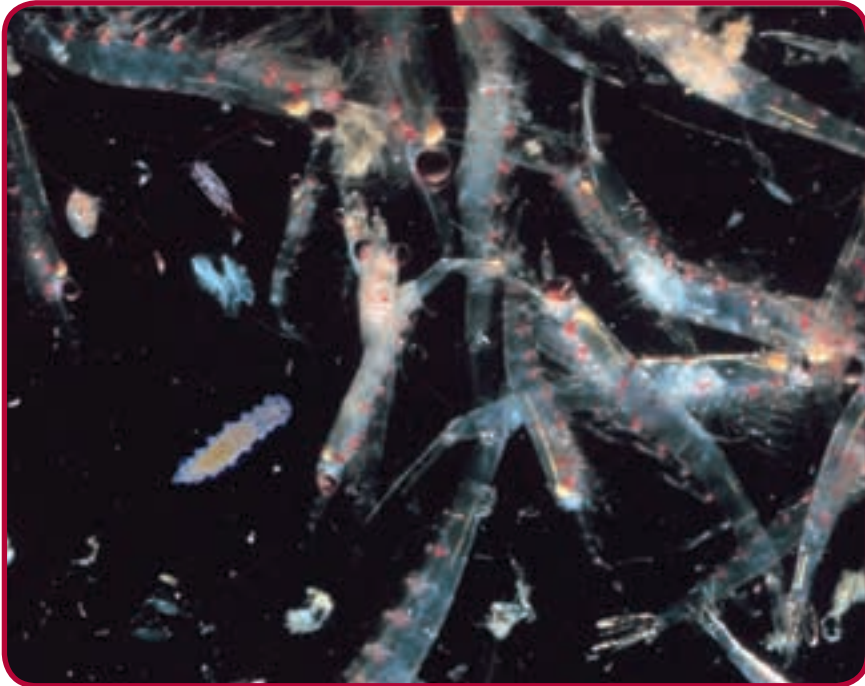
decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# ZOOPLANKTON

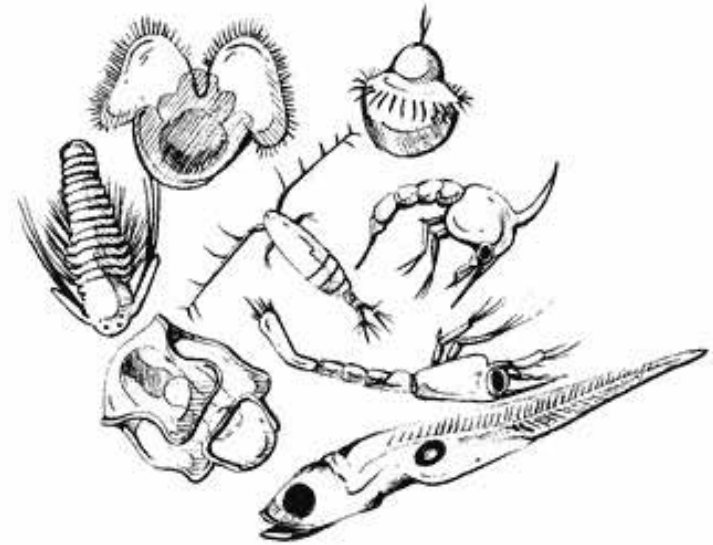


NOAA

Zooplankton are tiny animals and animal-like organisms that drift through the water. Zooplankton include small shrimp-like organisms called krill and other small crustaceans. These small creatures eat phytoplankton. Though many larval (baby) fish and invertebrates grow up to eat zooplankton, they are also considered zooplankton when still very small.

## I am...

(name of organism)



I am a (circle all that apply)

producer

herbivore

carnivore

decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# KELP



Lovell and Libby Langstroth © CAS

Kelp is a type of algae. Kelp uses the energy from sunlight to make its own food in a process called photosynthesis. Kelp also needs nutrients from the ocean water to produce its food.

## I am...

(name of organism)



I am a (circle all that apply)

producer

herbivore

carnivore

decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# CLAM



Lovell and Libby Langstroth © CAS

Clams are a type of bivalve mollusk, which means they have two shells, like a mussel or oyster. Clams take in food by filtering out tiny phytoplankton and detritus from the water. Clams have no head, just a mouth that takes in food that has been filtered through the siphon and gills.

## I am...

(name of organism)



I am a (circle all that apply)

producer

herbivore

carnivore

decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# BARNACLE



Lovell and Libby Langstroth ©CAS



Gerald and Buff Corsi ©CAS

Barnacles are crustaceans, related to lobsters and crabs. Adult barnacles are sessile, meaning they do not move. They eat any small particle of food that floats to them using feathery arms to draw the food towards their mouths. Barnacles will consume zooplankton, phytoplankton or detritus.

## I am...

(name of organism)



I am a (circle all that apply)

producer

herbivore

carnivore

decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# MUSSEL



knedquest flickr stream

Mussels are bivalve mollusks, meaning that they have two shells, like a clam or oyster. Mussels take in food by filtering out tiny phytoplankton and detritus from the water. Mussels live in tightly clustered groups on rocks that are only covered by water in high tide.

## I am...

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of organism)



I am a (circle all that apply)

producer

herbivore

carnivore

decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# ABALONE

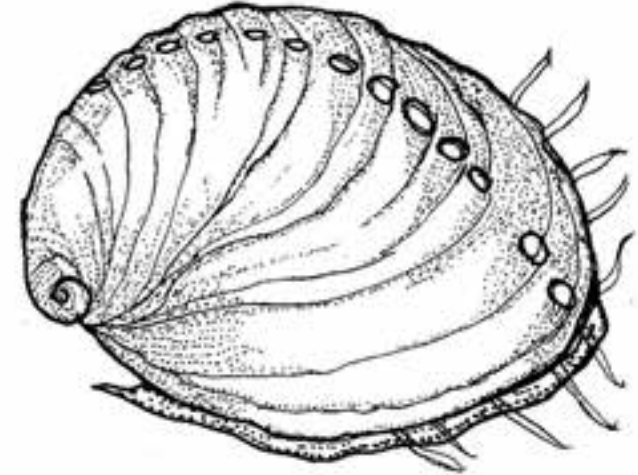


Gerald and Buff Corsi © CAS

Abalones are sea snails that can grow to over a foot long! They eat many types of large algae, especially kelp. The color of their shell changes depending on what algae they eat. Abalones often cling to the underside of rock ledges with their muscular foot and wait for pieces of kelp to fall nearby.

## I am...

(name of organism)



I am a (circle all that apply)

producer

herbivore

carnivore

decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# LIMPET



ken-ichi flickr stream

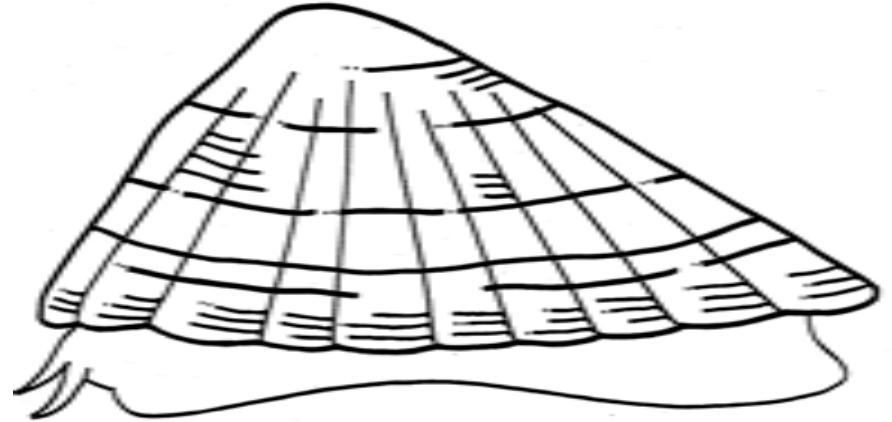


Gerald and Buff Corsi © CAS

A limpet is a gastropod mollusk, which means it is a type of sea snail. Limpets have a flat, wide shell on their backs. Limpets graze on tiny algae (phytoplankton) that is stuck to rocks. Sometimes small limpets even eat algae right off the shells of larger limpets and mussels.

## I am...

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of organism)



I am a (circle all that apply)

- producer
- herbivore
- carnivore
- decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# CRAB



Sherry Ballard © CAS

Crabs are crustaceans with a hard outer shell. Crabs eat a wide variety of foods. They are both scavengers of detritus and predators of other crustaceans, such as shrimp and barnacles, and mollusks like clams and limpets. Crabs are decapods (10-legged) and have claws on the front two legs that they use to eat.

## I am...

\_\_\_\_\_ ■  
(name of organism)



I am a (circle all that apply)

producer

herbivore

carnivore

decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# ROCK SNAIL

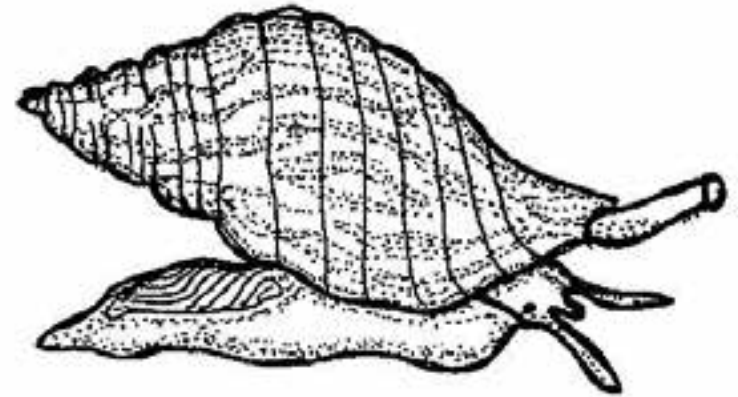


Minette Layne flickr stream

Rock snails are gastropod mollusks. They are sometimes called whelks or dog winkles. These predators are able to drill holes into the shells of mussels and barnacles to get to the fleshy parts, which they eat. These snails live in the tidal areas of rocky shores, where waves are very strong.

## I am...

\_\_\_\_\_   
 (name of organism)



I am a (circle all that apply)

producer

herbivore

carnivore

decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# SEA STAR



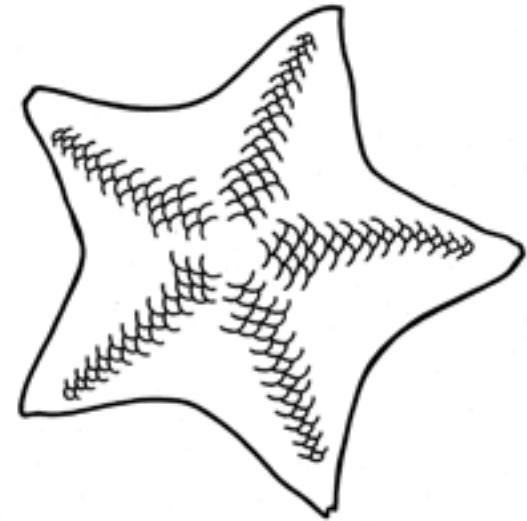
Sherry Ballard © CAS

Robert Potts © CAS



## I am...

\_\_\_\_\_   
 (name of organism)



I am a (circle all that apply)

producer

herbivore

carnivore

decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sea stars of the California coast are 5-armed animals with tiny tube feet all over their underside. They use their tube feet to grab tightly and pry open their prey, which includes mussels, barnacles, rock snails, and limpets. If the prey is too big to eat whole, a sea star can extend its stomach onto the prey and digest the food outside its body. One common species, Ochre Sea Stars, can be found along the rocky shores.

# BALEEN WHALE



NOAA

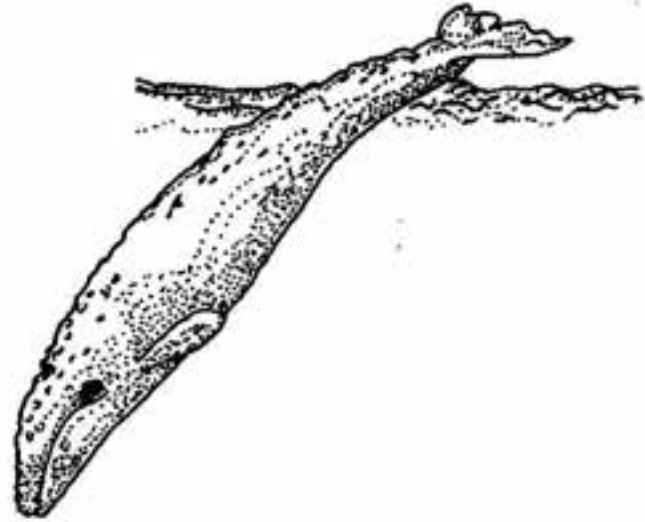


rubonix flickr stream

Baleen whales are large marine mammals and include humpback, gray and blue whales. Though they are some of the largest animals in the world, they only eat tiny zooplankton called krill. Instead of teeth, these whales have brush-like bristles that they use to filter out their tiny prey. A whale can eat 100 pounds of krill in one swallow!

## I am...

\_\_\_\_\_   
 (name of organism)



I am a (circle all that apply)

producer

herbivore

carnivore

decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# SEA URCHIN



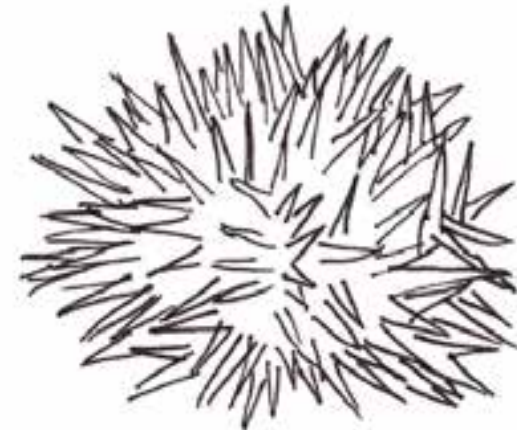
Lovell and Libby Langstroth © CAS

jkirkhart35 flickr stream

The purple sea urchin of the California coast is an invertebrate with many spines and tube feet all over its body. Sea urchins graze on kelp and if populations of sea urchins are not limited by predators, they can eat through 30 feet of giant kelp forest in one month!

## I am...

\_\_\_\_\_ *(name of organism)*



I am a *(circle all that apply)*

producer

herbivore

carnivore

decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# SHRIMP

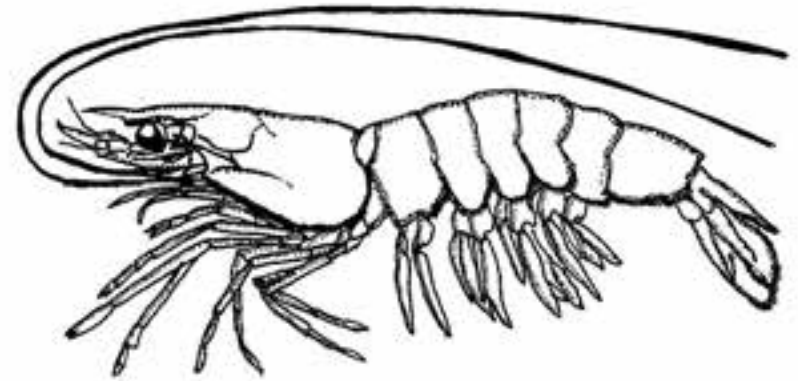


Gerald and Buff Corsi © CAS

Shrimp are decapod crustaceans. They are filter feeders, which means that they take in water and filter out the small pieces of detritus, zooplankton and phytoplankton. The Spot Prawn, the largest shrimp on the Pacific coast, spends its first two to three years as a male and then become a female.

## I am...

\_\_\_\_\_ .  
*(name of organism)*



I am a *(circle all that apply)*

producer

herbivore

carnivore

decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# SEA BIRD



Gerald and Buff Corsi © CAS

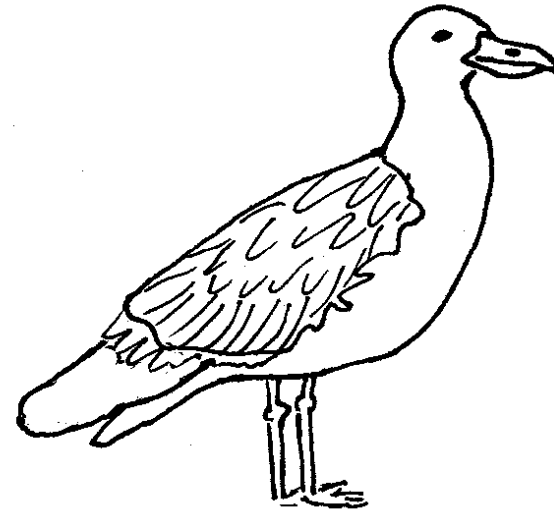


ikirkhart35 flickr stream

Sea birds are birds that live on the coasts and are dependent on the sea for food and survival. One of the most abundant sea birds of the California coast is the Western Gull, which has such a varied diet that it will even eat human garbage. The Western Gull prefers to eat small fish, shrimp, limpets, and rock snails. They can live for up to 25 years.

## I am...

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of organism)



I am a (circle all that apply)

producer

herbivore

carnivore

decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# SMALL FISH

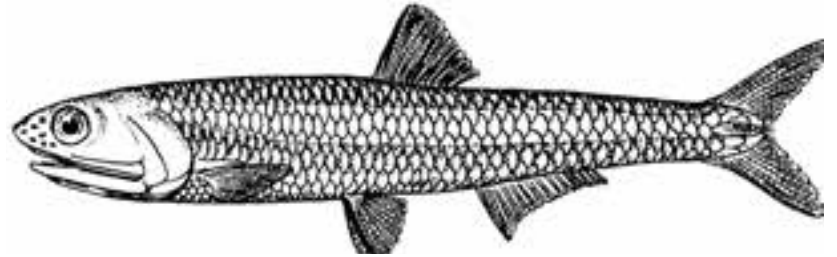


jillmotts flickr stream

The small fish of the California coast include anchovies, herring, and sardines. Adults of these small fish species can be found swimming in schools of up to thousands of fish tightly packed together. These fish filter out small zooplankton from the water to eat.

## I am...

\_\_\_\_\_ .  
*(name of organism)*



I am a *(circle all that apply)*

- producer
- herbivore
- carnivore
- decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# SQUID

Dr. Robert T. and Margaret Orr © CAS

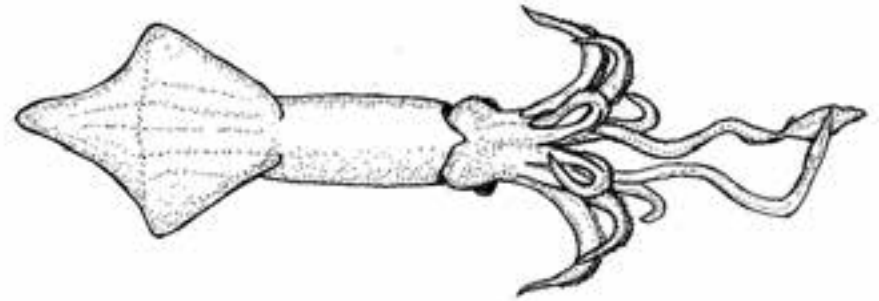


Minette Layne flickr stream

Squids are mollusks with 10 limbs. Like its cephalopod cousins the octopuses, squids can change their color depending on their mood. The Common Market Squid will change from a bluish color to a dark red color when eating their prey of small fish, crabs, shrimp and other mollusks. A squid can move very quickly, by squirting water out of its body to propel itself forward.

## I am...

\_\_\_\_\_   
*(name of organism)*



I am a *(circle all that apply)*

producer

herbivore

carnivore

decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# OCTOPUS

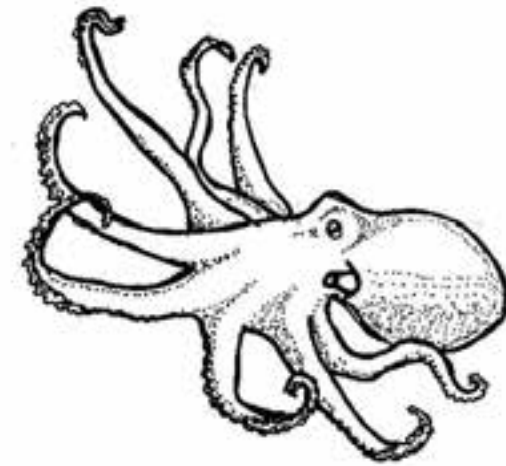


CAS flickr stream

An octopus is an eight-legged mollusk. Octopuses are generalists, which means that they will eat many different things. Octopuses' prey includes small fish, crab, shrimp, and many other mollusks and crustaceans. An octopus is able to change the color and texture of its skin so can appear in a wide range of colors!

## I am...

\_\_\_\_\_   
 (name of organism)



I am a (circle all that apply)

producer

herbivore

carnivore

decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# BIG FISH



Lovell and Libby Langstroth © CAS

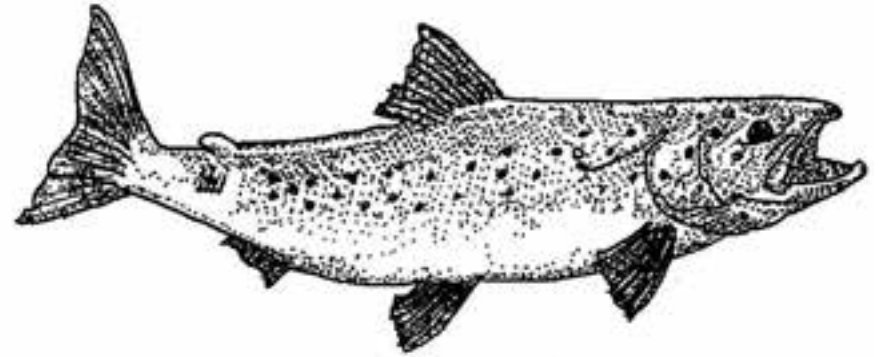


Soggydan flickr stream

The big fish of the Californian Coast include Salmon, Rockfish and Albacore Tuna. These large fish mainly eat smaller fish such as herring and anchovies, but also large invertebrates such as squid and shrimp. These big fish are diverse in color and life history - Rockfish rarely travel far over their lifetime, while Salmon start and end their lives in rivers, but grow big in the Pacific.

# I am...

\_\_\_\_\_   
*(name of organism)*



I am a *(circle all that apply)*

producer

herbivore

carnivore

decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# SEA OTTER

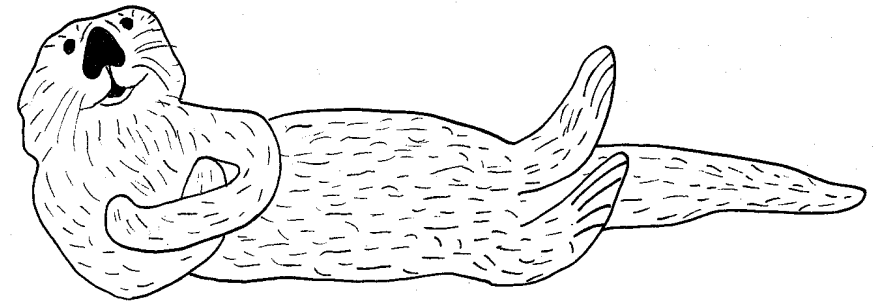


Dr. Lloyd Glenn Ingles © CAS

Sea otters are related to weasels and badgers. These mammals have the thickest fur of any living mammal. While the sea otter will often dive for its food, which includes abalone and sea urchin, they always eat while floating on their backs. To open the bivalves, like clams and mussels, that they also like to eat, sea otters will use stones as tools to help break open their prey.

## I am...

\_\_\_\_\_   
 (name of organism)



I am a (circle all that apply)

producer

herbivore

carnivore

decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# SHARK

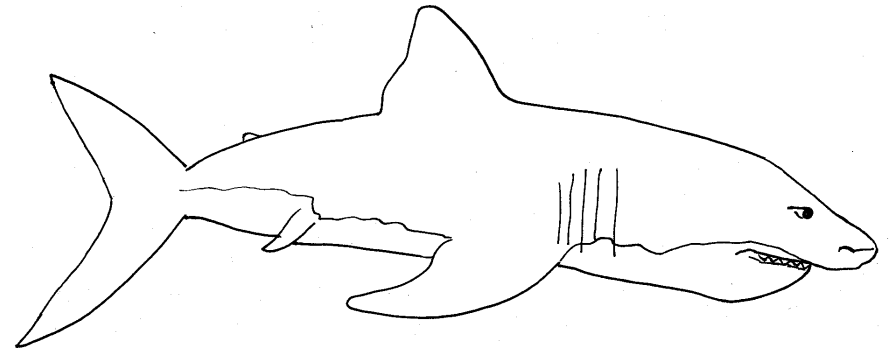


Ken Bondy flickr stream

Sharks of the California coast, like the White Shark, are fish with many sharp teeth for eating their large prey. In fact, a White Shark has as many as 3,000 teeth in its mouth at the same time! Large White Sharks prefer meals of marine mammals such as sea lions, small whales, and sea otters, but they will also eat crabs and big fish. Sharks use their very good sense of smell to find prey.

## I am...

\_\_\_\_\_   
 (name of organism)



I am a *(circle all that apply)*

producer

herbivore

carnivore

decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# SEA LION

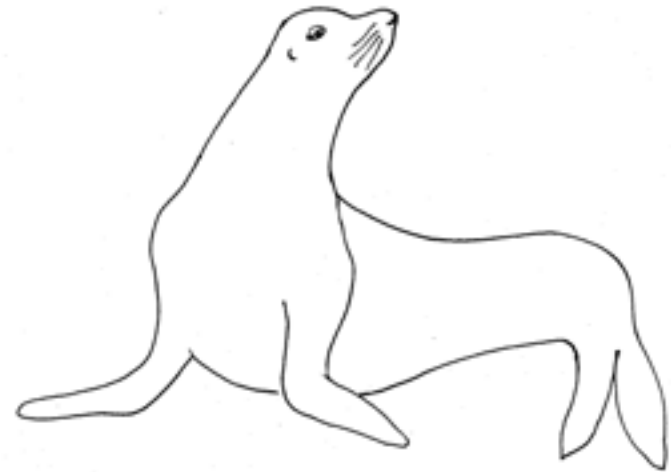


Calibas wikimedia

Sea lions are marine mammals in a group called pinnepeds. While they will spend much of their time hunting small fish, big fish, and crabs in the water, they breed and gather on sandy beaches and on manmade objects near the shore. Sea lions will cooperate with other predators, like whales and sea birds, when hunting for fish.

## I am...

\_\_\_\_\_   
 (name of organism)



I am a (circle all that apply)

producer

herbivore

carnivore

decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# TOOTHED WHALE



NOAA

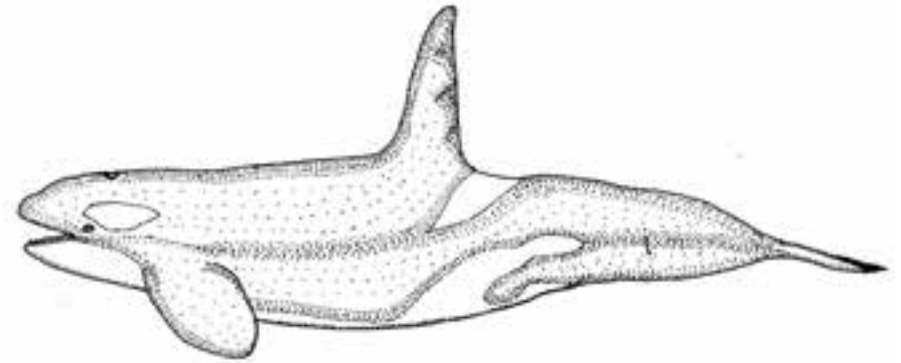


Tambako the Jaguar flicker stream

Toothed whales, which include Orcas and Sperm Whales, are marine mammals. Unlike their baleen relatives, these whales have teeth to eat their prey, which include small and big fish, large mollusks like squid and octopuses, and even other mammals such as sea lions. Toothed whales find their food by echolocation, which is when the whale makes sounds and listens for any echo that bounces off nearby prey.

## I am...

\_\_\_\_\_   
*(name of organism)*



I am a *(circle all that apply)*

producer

herbivore

carnivore

decomposer

because I eat \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_