

Handout 1 - Food web shuffle

Images of the organisms that are part of the Arctic food web. Cut the images along the dashed lines. You can see a list and a short description of the organisms you will find in this simplified Arctic food web below.

Arctic cod. The Arctic cod, also known by its scientific name *Boreogadus saida*, is a member of the cod family that lives in the Arctic and primarily feeds on zooplankton.

Benthos. The benthos comprises the organisms that live in, on or near the seafloor.

Bowhead whale. See *GUARDNA card*.

Detritus (dead organisms). A "cloud" formed from organic materials originating from marine life, consisting mainly of dead phytoplankton and zooplankton, small shells of phytoplankton, fish scales and skin, and fecal pellets (pieces of excrements from organisms living in the water column).

Human. The most common and widespread species of primates, capable of consuming a wide variety of plant and animal material (omnivorous).

Ice algae. Algae that live within the ice.

Ice fauna. Animals that live within the ice.

Killer whale. See *GUARDNA card*.

Marine microbes. A variety of very small organisms, including bacteria and viruses, that live in the water column.

Narwhal. See *GUARDNA card*.

Phytoplankton. Self-feeding (autotrophic) planktonic organisms that drift in the water column with currents but cannot truly swim.

Polar bear. The largest existing species of bear and land carnivore, inhabiting the Arctic and surrounding areas.

Ringed seal. See *GUARDNA card*.

Seabirds. There are dozens of Arctic seabird species, most of which feed on large and small crustaceans and fish.

Walrus. See *GUARDNA card*.

Zooplankton. Animal plankton. Planktonic organisms are those that drift in the water column, carried by currents but that are not able to truly swim.

Amphipods. Crustaceans with no carapace (or shell) and generally compressed bodies. Amphipods primarily rely on detritus and other scavenged materials.

Copepods. Small crustaceans found in large numbers in nearly all aquatic environments. Copepods typically prefer feeding on algae and detritus.

Gelatinous (carnivorous) zooplankton. Soft-bodied animals living in marine environments. While all jellyfish are gelatinous zooplankton, the group includes more than just jellyfish. Gelatinous zooplankton are predators that hunt a wide range of prey, including fish larvae, copepods, and even other gelatinous zooplankton.