

# Food web shuffle Handout 1



Who eats who? Students will put the organisms in the right position of the food web and make the right connections. How are they interconnected?

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**.