

A food chain in a kelp forest

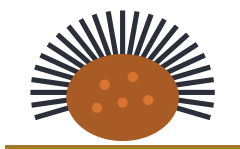
Write each one's place in the chain in its box. The word bank has the words.

Name _____ Date _____



Sea otter

3



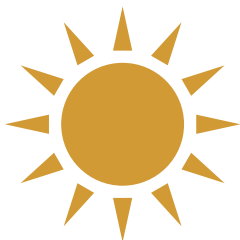
Sea urchin

2



Kelp

1



The Sun

Word bank

Decomposer

Producer

Primary consumer

Top predator

1. What does the kelp use to make its own food?

2. Which animal in this chain eats the sea urchins?

3. What happened to the kelp when too many sea otters were hunted?

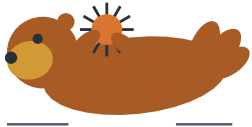


Bacteria

4

A food chain in a kelp forest: answer key

Read it from the bottom up. Each arrow points to the eater and shows where the energy goes.



Sea otter

Top predator

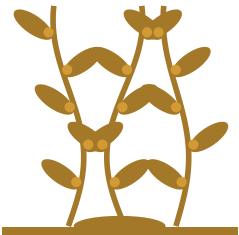
It eats sea urchins. It is a secondary consumer, and the top predator in this food chain.



Sea urchin

Primary consumer

A spiny animal on the sea floor. It eats the kelp.



Kelp

Producer

A large brown alga, a kind of seaweed. Like plants, it uses sunlight to make its own food.



The Sun

Its light is the energy that starts the chain.



Bacteria

Decomposer

Bacteria break down kelp and animals that die, and recycle them into nutrients for the kelp.

Answers: 1. Sunlight. 2. The sea otter. 3. The sea urchins grew in number and ate all of the kelp.