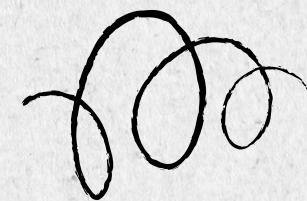


LESSON 20

Feeding Relationships in
an Intertidal Zone and
Estuarine Ecosystem





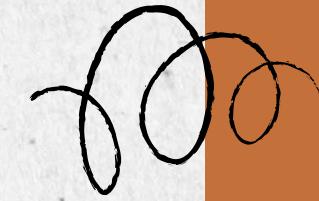
The Earth is a huge ecosystem that consists of living and nonliving factors. Of all nonliving factors, the most important is the light from the sun. The light from the sun is the source of energy for the whole ecosystem. The energy is passed from one organism to another. Energy is then lost to the environment as heat, that is why the Earth needs a constant supply of light energy from the sun. How does Earth use the energy from the sun?



The living things in any ecosystem consists of the producers, consumers, and decomposers. Energy and nutrients are transferred from the procedures to decomposers through their feeding relationships.



PROCEDURES



Procedures are green plants,, algae, or microorganisms that are capable of making their own food. They make their own food by converting the energy from the sun into chemical energy. Procedures provide energy and nutrients to another organisms.

CONSUMERS

Consumers get their energy by feeding on plants and other organisms. Therefore, all animals are consumers. Organisms that they eat only plants are called herbivores. They are known as the **primary consumers**. Living things that eat other animals are called **carnivores**. Carnivores that eat herbivores are known as **secondary consumers**. Carnivores that feed on other carnivores are **tertiary consumers**. Some animals, like humans, eat both plants and animals. They are called **omnivores**.

DECOMPOSERS

Decomposers get energy by breaking down dead organisms and their wastes. When they break down these dead organisms and waste, nutrients from them are returned to the environment. These nutrients are needed by plants for their growth and development. Examples of decomposers are fungi and bacteria.

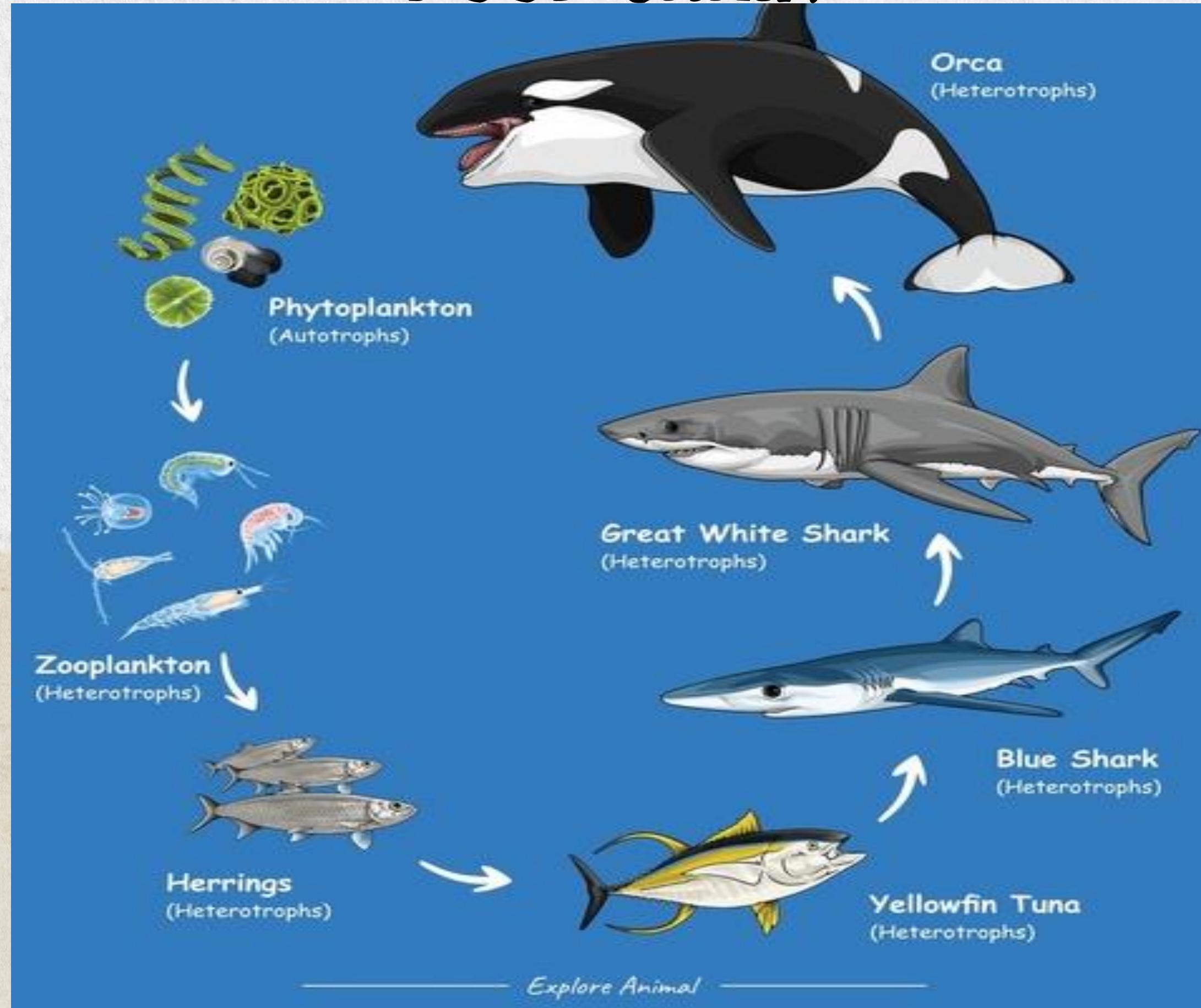


FOOD CHAIN

Food Chain- the feeding relationships among organisms can be shown by a food chain. A food chain is a series of organisms in which each organism feeds on another organism and so on. A food chain always begins with a producer. These are examples of food chain.



FOOD CHAIN



FOOD WEB

Food Web- when food chains are interlinked, they form a food web. A food web consists of two or more food chains. A food web is shown below:

FOOD WEB

