

LESSON 12 Key Questions

- What is a food chain?

The transfer of food energy from one organism to other organisms

- How is it different from a food web?

A food chain is one part of a complex system of interconnected food chains called a food web

- How is plankton important to the food web/chain?

Plankton, (Phyto and Zoo) are free floating drifters with their movements controlled by ocean tides and currents; an important food source in the marine food web.

- What is the difference between phytoplankton and zooplankton?

Microscopic plants makes up phytoplankton whereas microscopic animals makes up zooplankton.

- What is the difference between a consumer and a producer in a food chain?

A Consumer - an organism that gets food from eating other organisms whereas a producer - an organism that makes its own food from the energy of the sun, such as phytoplankton-Producers form the base of the food web.

- How could a natural disaster, environmental disaster, or some other action/event upset the balance of the food web/chain?

There are many results from an upset to the environment. One or more food sources could be moved to another location, severely depleted or completely wiped out

- What does the regulation of a fishery attempt to do for a food chain?

It attempts to keep it in balance to protect one species from being wiped out or over producing in its environment. Too much of one species will put a strain on the organism it eats.

- How can we as individuals help to keep a food chain in balance?

Such responses as become informed about why regulations exist, protect species when we are in the environment, do not pollute, protect the environment, etc

- Where else do you observe food chains in your natural environment?

Students may say humans, animals in the forest, birds in the sky, etc. They could be led to discussion of the points in the environment where one meets the other.