

Dinner at sea



Background knowledge

The ocean and the shoreline make up a habitat.

Living things in this habitat have feeding

relationships with one another. Animals that eat other

animals are called *carnivores*. Animals that eat plants are called

herbivores. Animals that eat both plants and animals are called *omnivores*.



Science activity

Use the descriptions of organisms and their eating habits in the table below to construct three food chains on a separate sheet of paper. Identify all of the carnivores and herbivores. Which organisms were producers?

Name of organism	Description/eating habits
plankton	microscopic mixture of small plants floating in the sea
seaweed	certain plants growing in the sea or on the seabed
mussel	a shellfish found on rocks that eats plankton
limpet	a shellfish found on rocks that eats seaweed
seal	eats fish, lobsters, and edible crabs
lobster	eats limpets and mussels
periwinkle	a shellfish that eats seaweed
mullet	a fish that eats seaweed
pollack	a fish that eats mullet
edible crab	a crab that eats periwinkles
oystercatcher	a bird that eats mussels

Science investigation

Go on a dinosaur hunting expedition on the Internet! Download pictures of carnivore, herbivore, and omnivore dinosaurs. Create 1–2 food chains that may have existed 65 million years ago.

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Science activity

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Sample food chain

Seaweed → Periwinkle → Edible crab

Answers may vary

Science investigation

Answers will vary. However, the same principles that drive food chains today would also have existed 65 million years ago.