

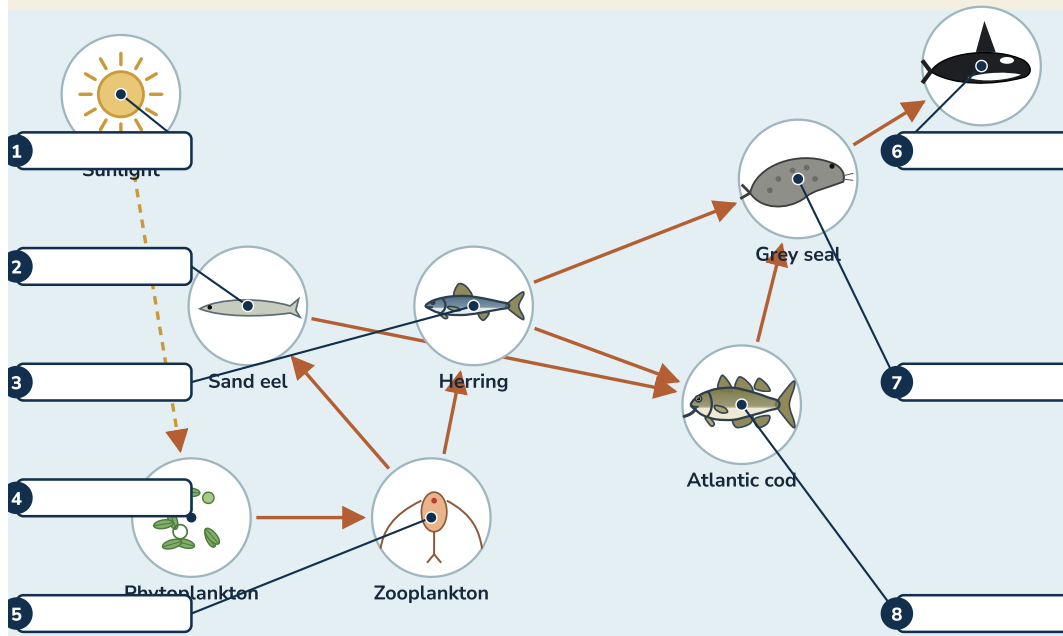
North Atlantic Food Web

From sunlight to apex predator

Look at the diagram. Write the correct name from the word bank in each numbered box.

atlantic cod | grey seal | herring | orca | phytoplankton | sand eel | sunlight | zooplankton

Arrows point from the food to the animal that eats it ("is eaten by").



A simplified North Atlantic food web. Arrows mean 'is eaten by' and show the direction energy flows.

Did you know?

- Phytoplankton make about **half** of the oxygen on Earth.
- Only about **10%** of energy passes from one level to the next.
- Sand eels feed **puffins**, seals, cod and many seabirds.
- Orcas are **apex predators**: nothing hunts them.
- About a **third** of fish stocks are overfished.

About Food Webs

A **food chain** shows one path of energy, from a **producer** to a top predator. A **food web** joins many food chains together.

Producers such as phytoplankton make food from sunlight. **Primary consumers** (zooplankton) eat producers. **Secondary** and **tertiary consumers** eat other animals. An **apex predator** has no natural predators.

Because animals use most of the energy they eat, only about 10% passes up each level. That is why there are far fewer orcas than herring.

Removing one living thing, by overfishing or pollution, can affect the whole web.

Key words

Producer	makes its own food from sunlight
Consumer	eats other living things
Predator	hunts other animals
Apex predator	at the top; nothing hunts it

What if a link is removed?

No more **sand eels**! What happens to:

Zooplankton: _____

Cod: _____

Grey seals: _____

Functions of Each Part	
Part	Function
Phytoplankton	
Zooplankton	
Sand eel	
Herring	
Atlantic cod	
Grey seal	
Orca	

Answer the Questions

- Name the producer in this food web. Where does it get its energy?

- Write one food chain from this web with at least four living things.

- Name the apex predator and explain why it is called that.

- Why are there far fewer orcas than herring in the sea?

- What if a link is removed? Explain what might happen to cod if herring were overfished.

- Stretch: microplastics are eaten by zooplankton. Explain how they could reach an orca.

