

# Maths:

## Make a food chain using paper chain links



### Learning Intention

We are reinforcing our understanding of how food chains work, using an example from the sea.

### Teachers' Note

This task emphasises the importance of connections in a food chain, and our dependence upon the sun. Take time to ensure that pupils assemble the links in the correct order

### Introduction

A food chain helps us show how an ecosystem like the ocean works: it shows what an animal eats, and what eats it. That helps us to understand the way that living things are connected and depend upon each other. On land, most food chains will start with a plant – these take the energy of the sun, and use it to grow and make starch that animals can then eat.

In the sea, the plants in a food chain are often replaced by algae and phytoplankton – these fulfil the same role as plants, using sunlight to grow and make starch.

Some food chains can be very short:



### 3 links

Phytoplankton

Krill

Baleen whale

(the shortest)

Others are longer, even without including the decomposers which deal with an animal after it has died:



### 6 links

Phytoplankton

Zooplankton

Herring

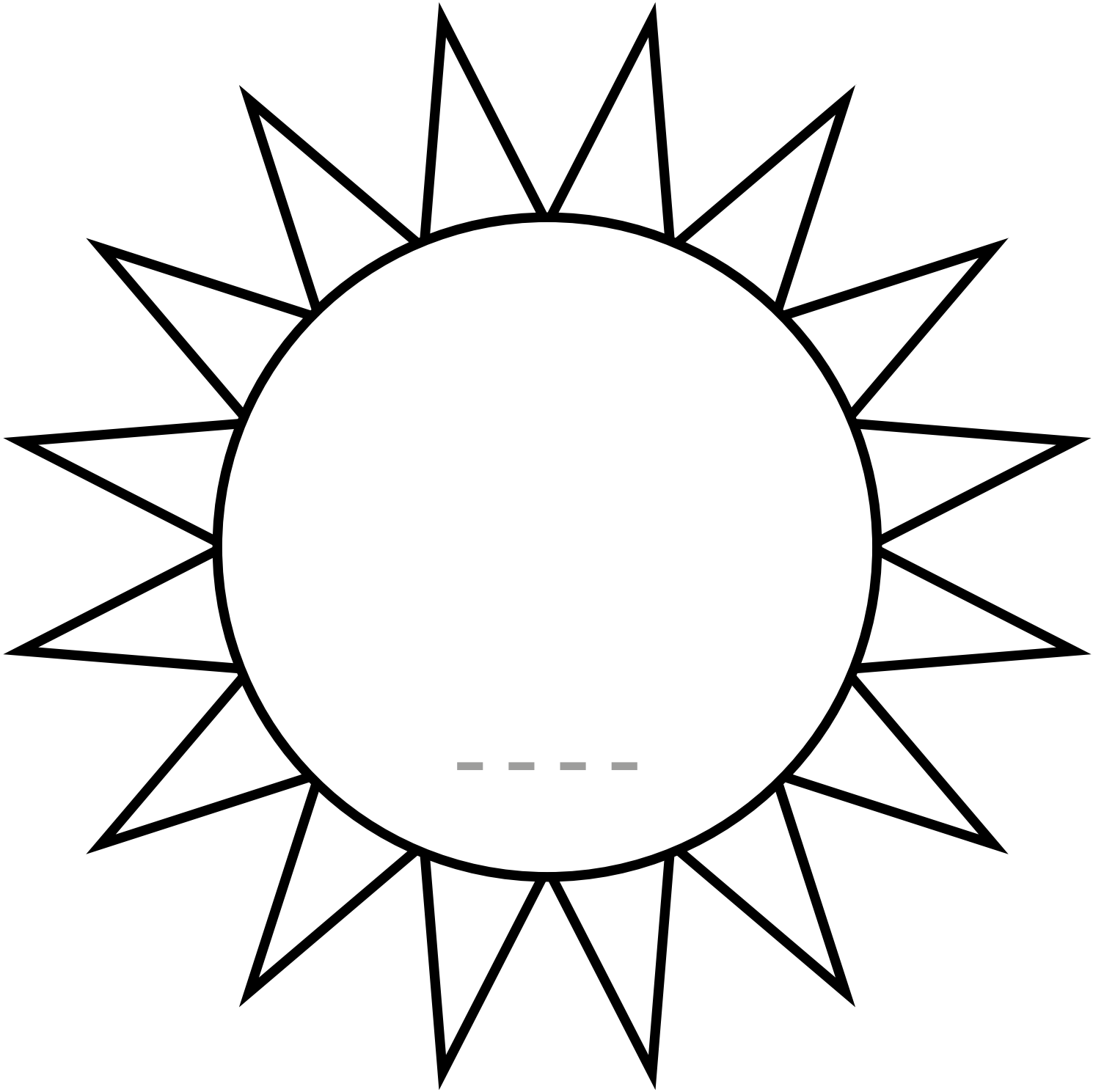
Salmon

Seal

Orca

The paper food chain is a fun way of emphasising how a food chain connects, and how the links depend upon each other.

- ✦ **Cut out the links on the sheet**
- ✦ **Cut out a slot in the sun for the first link to thread through**
- ✦ **Label each link: producer, prey or predator**
- ✦ **Decorate each link**
- ✦ **Join the links together in the correct order!**
- ✦ **Hang the chain from the sun – nearly all food chains depend upon the sun for energy**



**Killer whale**

Glue  
Here

**Fur seal**

Glue  
Here

**Squid**

Glue  
Here

**Anchovies**

Glue  
Here

**Shrimps**

Glue  
Here

**Phytoplankton**

Glue  
Here