



Rockweed

Seaweed

Rockweed

Size: Up to 25 - 30 cm in length

Food: Uses sunlight to produce food.

Predator: Humans, periwinkles, and Dog Whelks.

Habitat: Found within the intertidal zone attached to rocks. Many fish rely on rockweed for refuge from predators.

Location: Common along Northern Atlantic coasts.

Fun Fact: The 1st source of iodine (1811). It is used in nutritional supplements, foods and fertilizers.



Sea Lettuce

Green Algae

Sea Lettuce

Size: Up to 30 cm in length

Food: Uses sunlight to produce food.

Predator: Humans, manatees, and sea slugs.

Habitat: Shallow water, usually in tide pools and on rocks.

Location: Widely distributed along the coasts of the world's oceans.

Fun Fact: It's edible! Used in soups and salads.



Irish Moss

Red Algae

Irish Moss

Size: About 20 cm in length

Food: Uses sunlight to produce food.

Predator: Humans.

Habitat: Grows on rocks within the intertidal zone.

Location: Common along Northern Atlantic coasts.

Fun Fact: It is used in making nutritional supplements, lunch meat, ice cream and gelatin-like desserts.

Observations: _____

Circle One: Producer Consumer Decomposer



Limpet

Mollusk

Limpet

Size: 2.5 cm to 5 cm in length

Food: Scrapes algae off the surfaces of rocks and seaweed at high tide with a special tooth called a radula.

Predator: None.

Habitat: Rocky middle intertidal zone.

Location: Northern Atlantic coasts.

Fun Fact: After feeding, as the tide goes out, it returns to its original rock using a homing mechanism. Here it creates a seal with the rock by wearing away a smooth depression the size of its shell.

Observations: _____

Circle One: Producer Consumer Decomposer



Slipper Snails

Mollusk

Slipper Snails

Size: 20 - 50 mm in length

Food: Eats plankton and detritus.

Predator: None.

Habitat: Found stacked in the intertidal zone and on rocks and crabs.

Location: Native along the eastern coast of North America but an invasive species in temperate zones worldwide.

Fun Fact: The bottom in the pile is the oldest and the only female, the rest are younger males. When the female dies, the male nearest to the bottom changes to female.



Dog Whelk

Mollusk

Dog Whelk

Size: Up to 3 cm in length

Food: Eat plankton, barnacles, sea lettuce, periwinkles, juvenile crabs & mussels and detritus .

Predator: Shore birds and crabs.

Habitat: Rocky middle intertidal zone.

Location: Common along North Atlantic coasts.

Fun Fact: The dog-whelk can be used to produce red-purple and violet dyes. They bore through the shells of prey and inject enzymes that digest the prey within its shell. The resulting liquid 'soup' is then sucked out.

Observations: _____

Circle One: Producer Consumer Decomposer



Razor Clam

Mollusk

Razor Clam

Size: Up to 17 cm in length

Food: Filters water with its gills in order to feed on plankton and detritus.

Predator: Humans and shore birds.

Habitat: Sandy beaches and tidal mud flats.

Location: North American Atlantic and European coasts.

Fun Fact: Also known as the Atlantic Jackknife it has remarkable speed in digging can easily outstrip a human digger, making the clam difficult to catch.

Observations: _____

Circle One: Producer Consumer Decomposer



Soft Shell Clam

Mollusk

Soft Shell Clam

Size: Up to 9 cm in length

Food: Filters water with its gills in order to feed on plankton and detritus.

Predator: Humans, sea gulls, green crabs, and moon snails.

Habitat: Sandy beaches and tidal mud flats.

Location: Northern Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

Fun Fact: It has a calcium carbonate shell, which is very thin and easily broken, hence the name "soft-shells" . An adult soft shell clam can filter up to four liters (1.06 gallons) of water per hour.

Observations: _____

Circle One: Producer Consumer Decomposer



Blue Mussel

Mollusk

Blue Mussel

Size: Up to 10 cm in length

Food: Filters water with its gills in order to feed on plankton and detritus.

Predator: Humans, sea stars, sea gulls, and dog whelks.

Habitat: Attached to rocks in the intertidal zones.

Location: Temperate to polar regions of Northern Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

Fun Fact: Blue mussels are filter feeders and play a vital role in estuaries by removing bacteria and toxins.



Barnacles

Arthropod

Barnacles

Size: Over 7 cm in length

Food: Filters the water to feed on plankton and detritus.

Predator: Star fish, whelks, some shore birds, and mussels.

Habitat: Attached to hard substrates in shallow waters and middle to high intertidal zones.

Location: Worldwide.

Fun Fact: Barnacles are a type of crustacean so they are actually related to crabs and lobsters. Most of the actual scientific research on barnacles was done by none other than Charles Darwin.



Green Crab

Arthropod

Green Crab

Size: From 6 cm to 10 cm in length.

Food: Eats clams, oysters, mussels, small lobsters, and other small crabs.

Predator: Fish, marine mammals, shore birds, and octopus.

Habitat: A large range from the upper intertidal zone to 55 m depth.

Location: Along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of North America and Atlantic coast of South America and Africa.

Fun Fact: The green crab moves quickly and is capable of learning, so it can improve its prey-handling skills.



Hermit Crab

Arthropod

Hermit Crab

Size: Up to 3 cm in length

Food: Eats seaweed and detritus.

Predator: Fish, crabs, and octopus.

Habitat: Found from the intertidal zone to 50 m in depth.

Location: Along the Western Atlantic coast from Massachusetts to Florida.

Fun Fact: One strategy that hermit crabs use to find the very best shell for them is lining up. When a new shell becomes available they make a line in size order, from largest to smallest.



Black Backed Gull

Chordate

Black Backed Gull

Size: Up to 80 cm in length

Food: Eats living or dead organisms on land or water such as clams, oysters and crustaceans.

Predator: Other Gulls, and birds of prey.

Habitat: Coastal regions.

Location: Found in temperate and tropical regions worldwide.

Fun Fact: This species is the largest in the world. The maximum recorded age is 27.1 years. It is one of the species whose feathers were used for fashionable clothing in the 1800s.

Observations: _____

Circle One: Producer Consumer Decomposer