



# Color and Cut Kelp Forest

Kelp forests are home to many different animals, large and small. These animals make up the consumers of an intricate food web. Plants like kelp and phytoplankton are the foundation of this food web, turning the Sun's energy into food for themselves and the animals that eat them.

## Materials

Scissors  
Habitat worksheet (page 3)  
Animal cards (page 4)  
Colored pencils  
Tape or glue sticks  
Yarn or string (optional)

## Directions

1. **Print out** the habitat and animal sheets found on pages 3-4.
2. **Color** the habitat on the worksheet.
3. **Color and cut out** the animals.
4. **Tape or glue** the animals onto the worksheet. Arrange the animals in the kelp forest habitat.
5. **Challenge:** Cut and tape string to connect animals that eat each other or the kelp.



## Habitat Information

**Kelp forests** are rich underwater habitats alive with diversity. Large seaweed such as bull kelp and giant kelp grow from the seafloor to the surface of the water. Some kelp species reach up to 115 feet tall and grow 10 inches per day! This tall, dense underwater forest provides both food for some animals and shelter for many others.

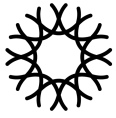


**Predators and prey** are the consumers of the food web, taking energy from the food that they eat, whether it is plants or other animals. Sea otters are an important predator in the kelp forest because they eat sea urchins. Sea urchins' favorite food is kelp, and if there are too many sea urchins eating kelp then the kelp forest would cease to exist.

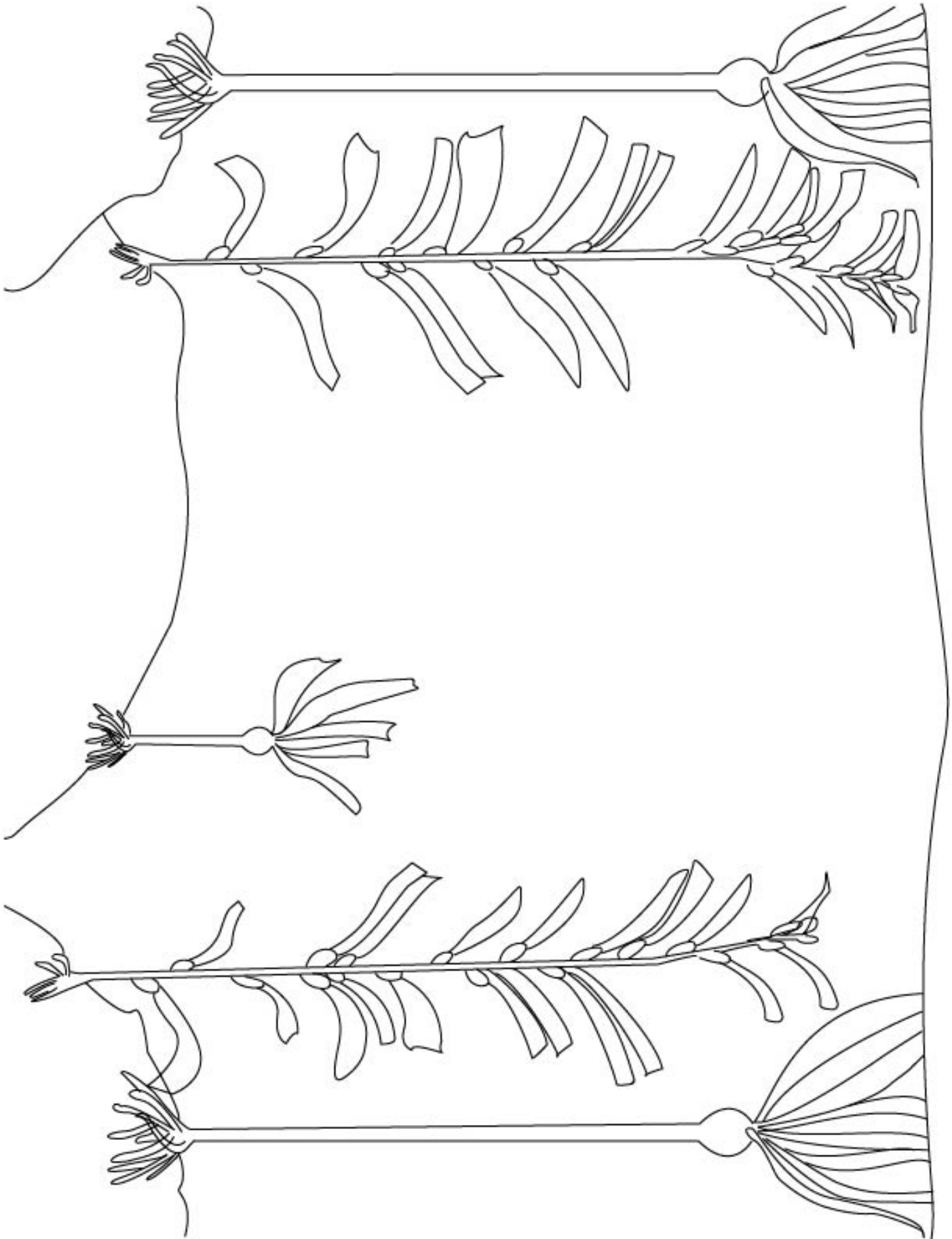


**Producers**, like plants, kelp, algae, and tiny phytoplankton that capture energy from the Sun and turn it into food stored inside the organism. Without producers creating food from the Sun, the rest of the food web would collapse.





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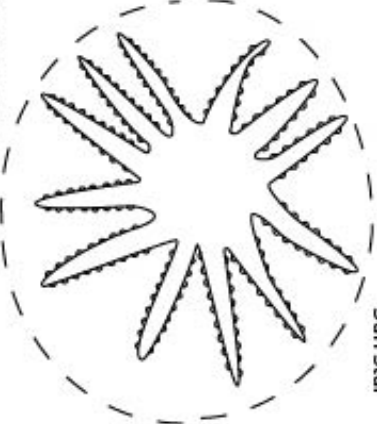
Horned Shark



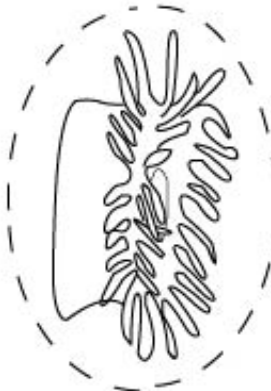
Sea Star



Sun Star



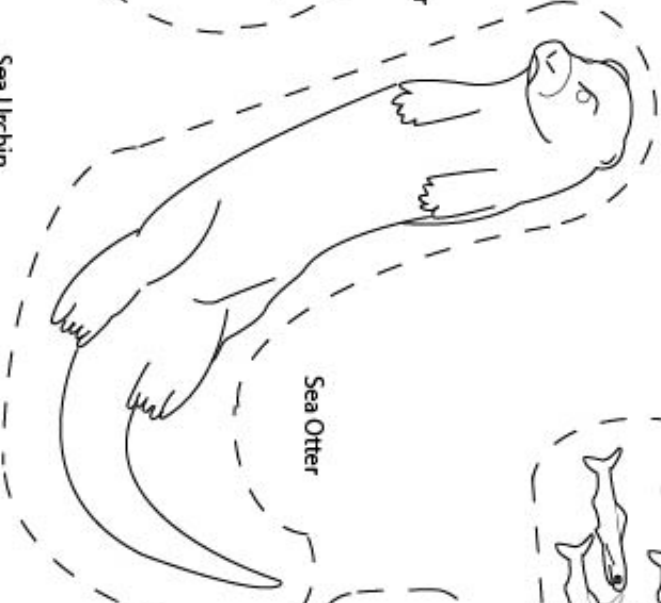
Sea Anemone



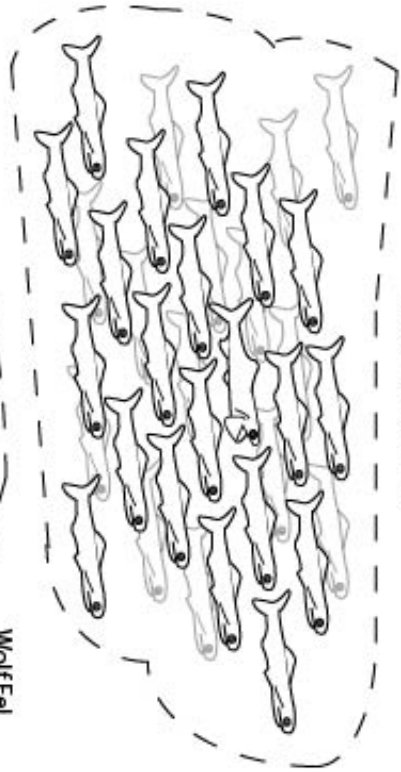
Sea Urchin



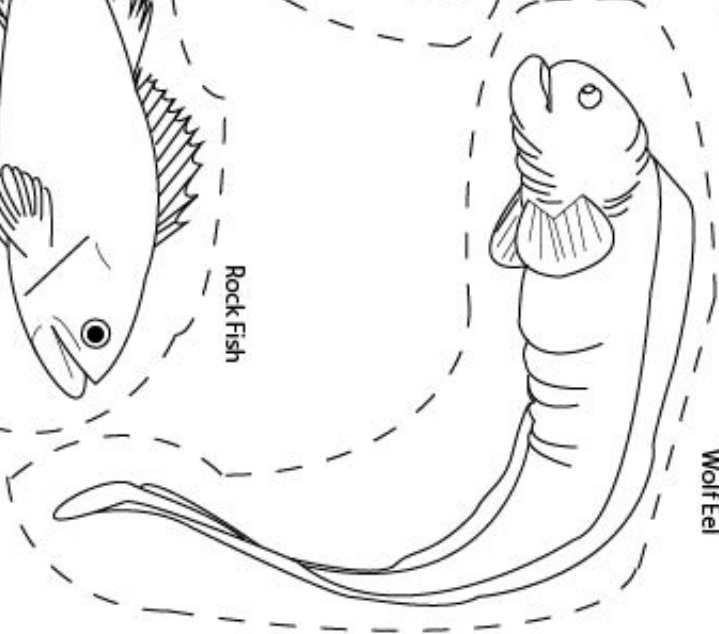
Sea Otter



Northern Anchovies



Wolf Eel



Rock Fish

