

National Trust
for Jersey

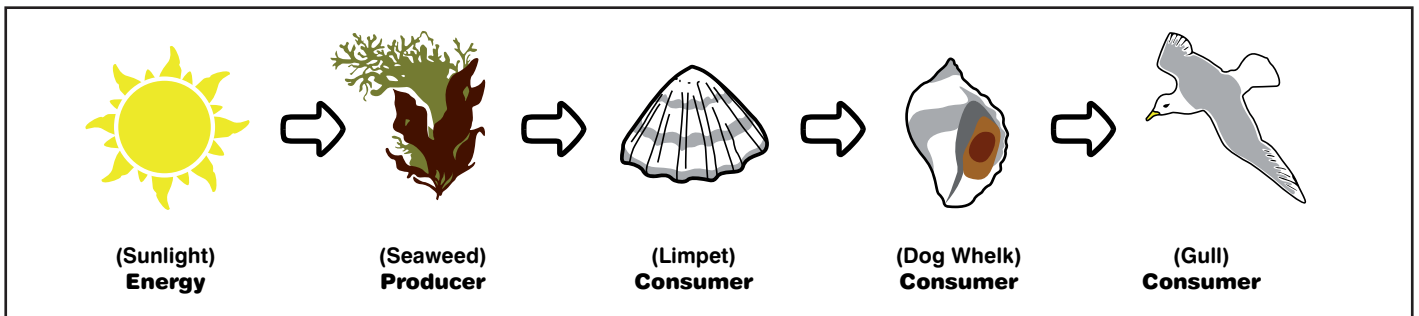
Rockpool Rambles



SEASHORE FOOD CHAINS

Plants and animals in an ecosystem are linked together by how they feed. Food chains usually begin with plants, which with the help of the sun have the ability to produce food for themselves. The arrow in the food chain means “food for” and shows the direction of the food through a series of consumers.

For example in a rockpool seaweed produces food from the sun. The seaweed in turn is a valuable source of food for herbivores such as limpets. Dog whelks which are carnivores will eat limpets and in turn the whelks can be eaten by herring gulls.



A. Plankton is the name given to tiny drifting organisms, usually too small to be seen, which are an essential food source for rockpool life. Some are producers, receiving their energy from the sun. Whereas other types live on the remains of larger animals or absorb nutrients contained in the water.

Name three animals which live on Plankton?

1

2

3

B. What would a Cushion Star eat in addition to small shellfish?

C. Name another rockpool predator which has a similar diet to the Cushion Star.

D. Name another creature that is at the top of the rockpool food chain, along with the Herring Gull.