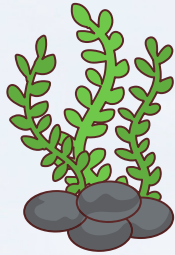


The **Arctic marine food web**, like all food webs, is made up of **producers, consumers** and **decomposers**.

A **food web** is a diagram that depicts energy transfer between organisms in an area. A **food chain** shows the order in which living things make and use energy. It starts with plants and ends with animals.

Producers



On land and in the ocean, producers are **plants** that convert energy from the sun into sugars through **photosynthesis**.

Consumers



Consumers include herbivores that feed on producers. **Orcas** and **polar bears** are two iconic examples of important apex predators in the Arctic.

Decomposers

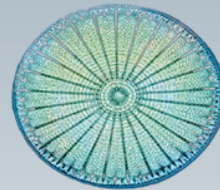


Decomposers are organisms that break down and recycle the waste and dead remains of organisms into organic nutrients to be taken up and used by the primary producers again.

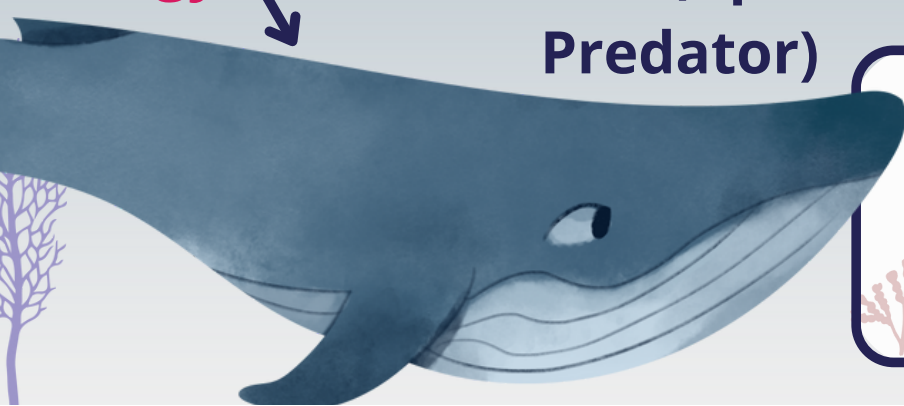
Zooplankton (primary consumers)



Phytoplankton (primary producer)



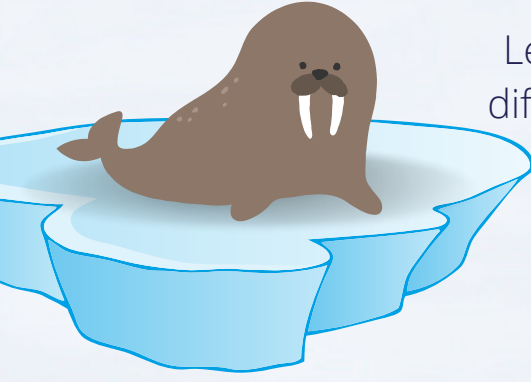
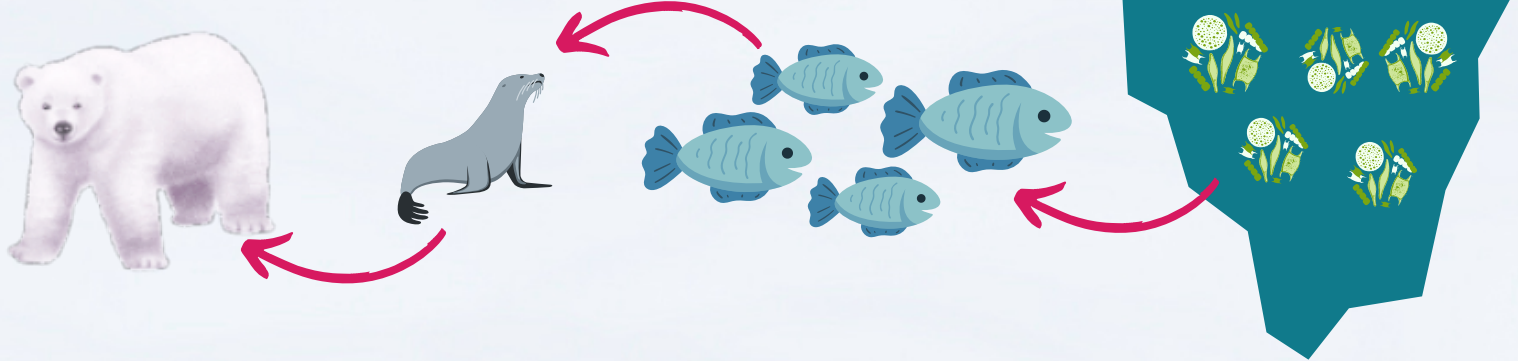
Blue Whale (Apex Predator)



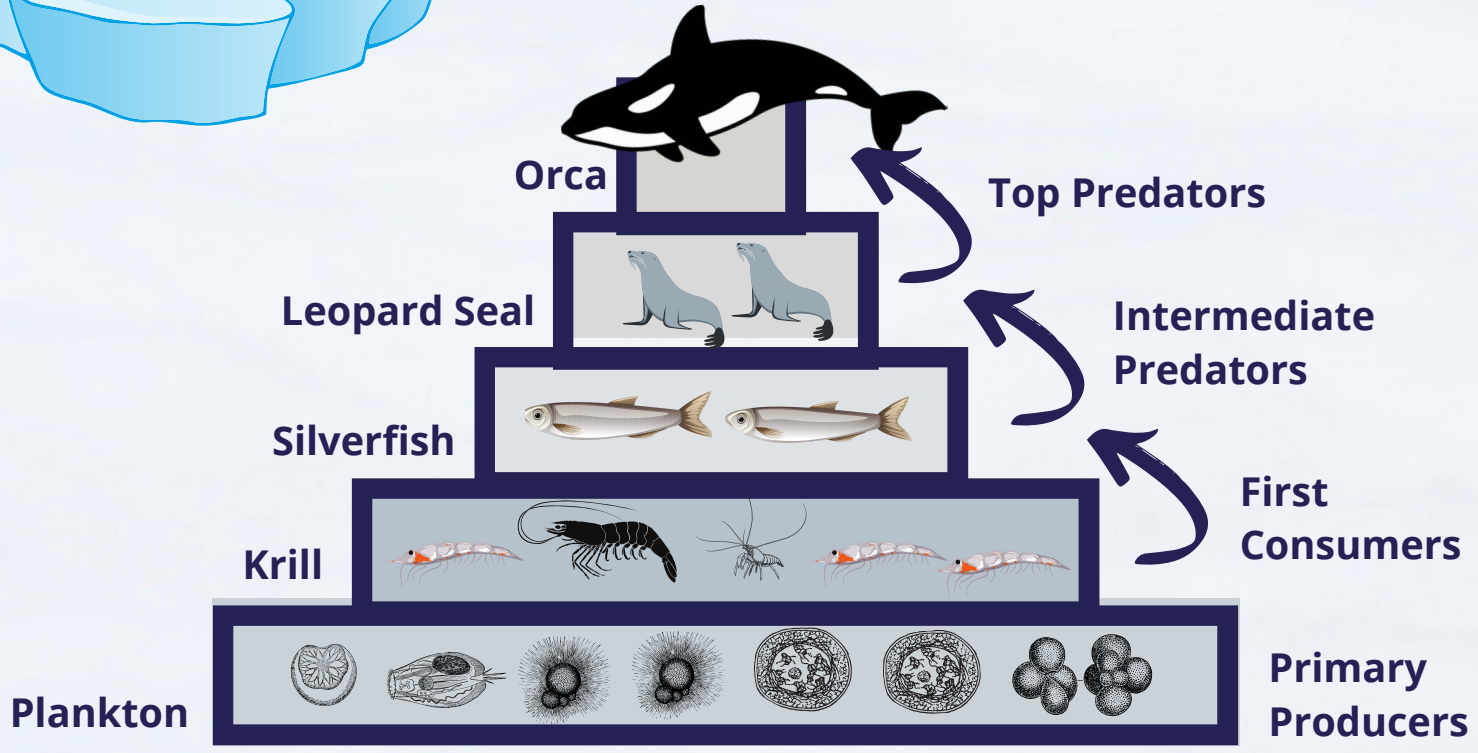
Polar bears need to eat almost 50 seals a year to survive.

Where does **algae** live?

The food chain begins with **algae** and other tiny organisms that live on and within the sea ice. **Arctic cod** feed on them. **Seals** eat Arctic cod. And **polar bears** prey on seals.



Less ice and warming water means that life is far more difficult for polar bears, walrus and seals that rely on the sea ice to hunt and rest.



Life begins at the bottom of the food chain

