

Challenge Activities

Reef Ecology

Challenge: Food Chain and Numbers Pyramids

1. Consider the following levels in a food chain. Write examples of the plants or animals that represent each level in a marine food chain environment.

Primary Producer	Primary Consumer	Secondary Consumer	Tertiary Consumer

2. Food chains vary in length though are rarely more than five levels. Suggest a reason for this:

3. Food webs give a useful description of the feeding relationships in an ecosystem. However, they are non-quantitative. A pyramid of numbers shows the number of organisms at each trophic level in a community.

- a. Using the examples you have written in the table above, draw a pyramid of numbers which represents this food chain.

- b. Draw a pyramid of numbers that represents the following scenario: a large predatory fish covered in parasites, being cleaned by a symbiotic cleaner fish.