Task Sheet

The rock pool food web

An ecologist has been studying a rock pool for a week. She has noted which plants and animals she has seen and what they are eating. Below are her notes.

Rock Pool Feeding Relationships: observation notes

Monday: *I saw a **shore crab** eating some **green seaweed**. A **sea anemone** was eating by catching small particles of floating plants and animals.*   

Tuesday: *__Whelks__ are eating __red__ and __green seaweed__. __Small fish__ dart out from under rocks and catch __shrimps__.*  

Wednesday: *The __shrimps__ seem to be eating all the time. They are eating microscopic plants and animals. These organisms are called __plankton__. __Animal plankton__ eats __plant plankton__ in the rock pool. It is likely that __sea anemones__ are eating __plankton__ too.*  

Thursday: *Observed the __shore crabs__ more closely today. One was eating a __shrimp__ it had caught. Another was eating a __small fish__, but I did not see it catch it. The __crabs__ also eat __whelks__.*

Friday: *__Small fish__ nibble at __sea anemones__. __Seagulls__ occasionally land next to the pool. I have seen them eat __small fish__ and __crabs__.* 

Task: Write down some daily and seasonal changes that might happen in the rock pool habitat. Choose a predator and prey and write down some adaptations that help them to survive. Draw some food chains or a food web using some or all of this information. Decide which type of feeder each organism is (primary consumer, etc) and identify the producers.

Level ladder: What is your target level? Use the level ladder to help you reach it:

To get level	You might have:
Easy	• Drawn a simple food web that links at least three food chains. • Used some key words to describe how plants and animals get their food (e.g. producer, primary consumer, carnivore). • Described at least one adaptation that helps a predator and prey to survive. • Described one daily **and** one seasonal change that affects the rock pool habitat.
Medium	• Drawn a simple food web that links most of the organisms. • Used key words to describe how plants and animals get their food (e.g. producer, primary consumer, carnivore). • Explained at least one adaptation that helps a predator and prey to survive. • Explained how daily **and** seasonal changes affect the rock pool organisms. • Used the Big Idea of Energy to explain how energy flows through the food chains in the rock pool.
Hard	• Drawn a detailed and organised food web, with all types of feeders correctly identified. • Explained several adaptations that help a predator and prey to survive. • Explained daily **and** seasonal changes that affect the rock pool organisms. • Used the Big Idea of Energy to explain how energy flows through the food chains in the rock pool.