



# Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

## Food chains transcript

A food chain is a way of linking the animals and plant's in a community based on who eats what.

This allows us to see the overall relationship between each living thing based on how it gets its food, or energy, and how that is passed from one living thing to another

Let's start at the very bottom, the first link in any food chain is the sun. We then have a **producer**, which is a living thing that uses sunlight to create its own food through a process called photosynthesis. So, this means that producers are almost always green plants. On land these are things like grass and trees but the biggest producer in the sea, (and the world) are actually tiny little organisms called phyto-plankton, which are also known as micro-algae.

Any living thing that does not make its own food is called a **consumer**. The next link in the food chain are what we call **primary consumers**. These are animals that eat the producers (like phyto-plankton) for energy. Because these are animals which eat plants, they are called **herbivores**. Some examples from the Yorkshire coast would be shrimps or limpets.

Animals that eat primary consumers are called **secondary consumers**. These are called **carnivores** which are animals that eat other animals. Some examples from the Yorkshire coast would be crabs and fish.

Lastly, we have, what are known as **tertiary consumers**. These are animals at the top of the food chain, which eat lots of primary and secondary consumers. In our marine food chain these are animals such as sharks, dolphins and some whales.

To summarise, a marine food chain off the Yorkshire coast is:

Algae – Limpet – Crab – Catshark