

Location: Ocean Beach at Great Highway & Sloat Avenue (below the restrooms).

Public transit: Streetcar L - Taraval, Bus 18 - 46th Ave., or Bus 23 - Monterey.

What to bring: This worksheet, pencil, and something stiff to write on.

Before you go: Read and sign the field trip liability release form.

Recommended reading: pages 233-234 & 254-256 prior to trip.

A sandy beach is home to many plants and animals that rely on food, primarily plankton, from the ocean. A good portion of their diet also consists of dead remains that have washed onto the beach. It is a challenge to identify the remaining bits and pieces of these decaying organisms and to suggest their origin. Other animals actively search for food by hunting other beach residents. Upon close observation, it is possible to construct a food web for all the species that live on a beach. By observing living organisms in action and by reconstructing the clues left in dead and decaying matter, you should be able to ascertain their place in the food chain and their ecological niche.

The purpose of this field trip is to find, identify, and describe as many plant and animal organisms as you can during the lab period. If you prefer to collect all your organisms first for identification later, be sure to note their location on the beach.

Complete the chart on back of this sheet for each type or species of marine life you find. The list below includes a few of the plants and animals you could potentially observe this morning -- you will be provided with a more complete and descriptive list during the field trip. The challenge is to find organisms not on this list -- inspect your specimens closely to find the smaller organisms living there.

Name: Common or scientific name of organism found

Group: General category of organism

Habitat: Probable environment of organism while still alive

Niche: Ecological role or place in food chain (e.g. producer, herbivore, carnivore, scavenger, etc.)

| NAME | GROUP | HABITAT | NICHE |
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