

ISLAND KIDS

& PAPERBINS

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BEACH BINGO

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Beach Bingo

As you walk along the beach amid sounds of seagulls and pounding surf have you ever stopped to wonder why life exists on this planet and not on any other in our solar system? Have you ever wondered why this life began and where it all started? Life occurs on earth because of a wonderful substance around you; that wonderful water.

Scientists believe that life originated in that water. The surface of the earth is over 200 million square miles. More than seventy percent of that surface is covered by water. Scientists believe that the oceans were created from the steam that escaped from melted Igneous rock when the earth was formed. Huge clouds of this vapor formed around the hot earth. As the earth began to cool this gas condensed and began to fall to the earth as rain. Rain fell for hundreds of years, filling holes and depressions in the earth's surface. As these waters traveled down mountains they carried with them dissolved salts and minerals pouring these items into what became the planet's oceans. From this combination of minerals, water and air, life was formed. Today more than 200,000 different species of animals and plants live in our oceans and along our seashores.

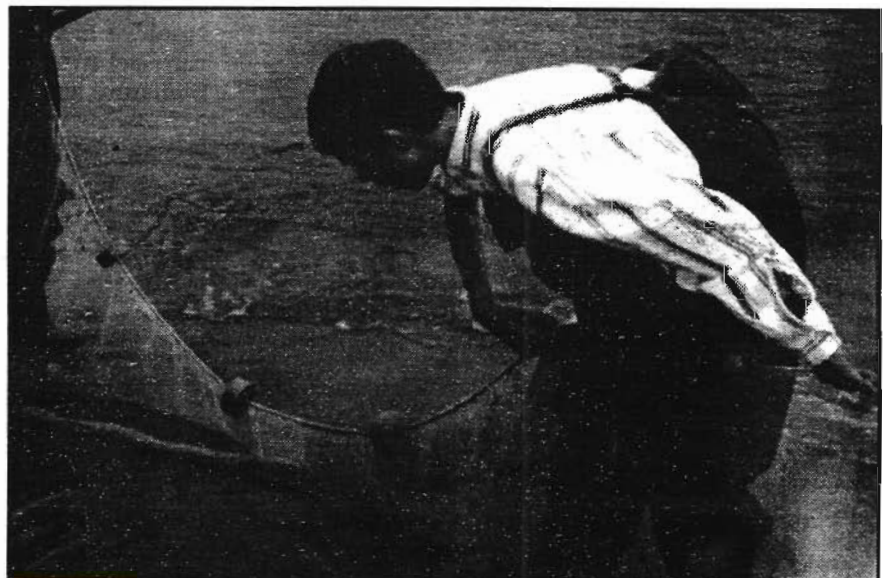
There are many things we have in common with the organisms we see at the beach. For example all living things need food. While animals have to hunt or forage for food, green plants have the ability to make food using water, carbon dioxide and nutrients through a process called photosynthesis. Since plants make or produce food, they are called producers. Animals consume or eat food and are in-turn called consumers. As animals die, decomposers help to turn the animal or plant into fertil-

izer so that the process can start all over again. This process is called the food cycle or food chain. This food cycle not only occurs on land, but also takes place on our aquatic communities. In the ocean, food chains overlap to form more complex food webs. Most marine creatures have a varied diet. If one link in the chain is removed, or a food source is extinguished, consumers will have to find alternate food supplies or they will starve to death. There is a delicate balance of plant life and animals in this predator-prey relationship. These food chains usually end with an animal that is not preyed upon, however, that animal will eventually die and will decompose as bacteria attacks it.

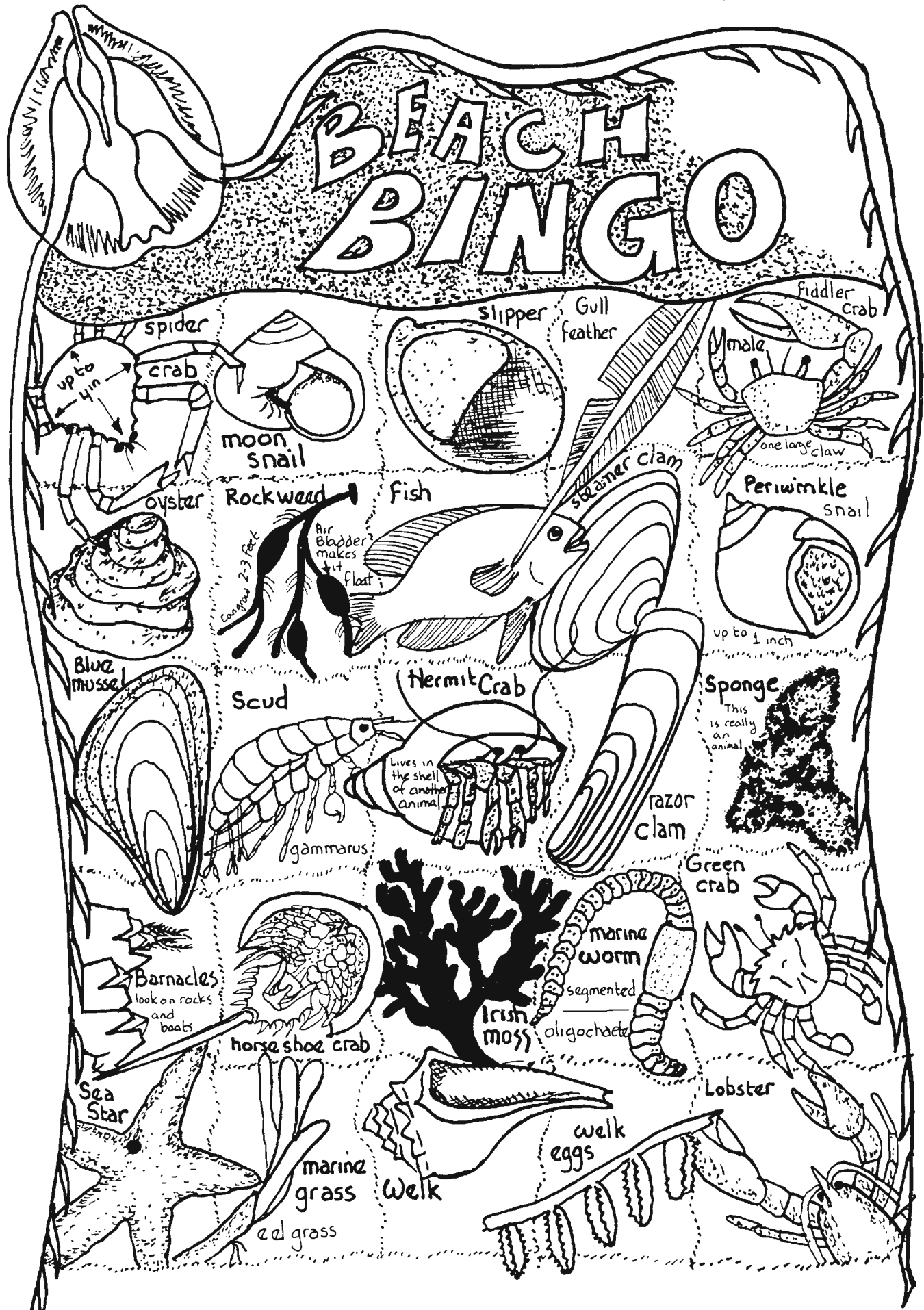
This bingo type activity is designed to help you find out more about life at the seashore. How many of the organisms on the bingo card can you find? Working in teams with your friends, can you find five items in a row. Which of the items you discovered are consumers? Which are producers and which are decomposers? Compare your discoveries to the drawings



on the bingo sheet. Look in a field guide to the seashore to find out more about sea plants, univalve creatures (snails) and bivalves (clams, oysters and muscles). Remember to keep all live animals and plants you discover in a basin of water until you return them to their habitat. Before starting on this activity you may want to cover your bingo sheet with plastic to keep it dry. Have fun while you look, compare, discover and learn.



BEACH BINGO



spider
 crab
 up to 4 in
 moon snail
 oyster
 Rockweed
 Air Bladder makes float
 Fish
 slipper
 Gull feather
 fiddler crab
 male
 one large claw
 Periwinkle snail
 up to 1 inch
 Blue mussel
 Scud
 Hermit Crab
 Lives in the shell of another animal
 gammarus
 razor clam
 Sponge
 This is really an animal
 Green crab
 Barnacles
 look on rocks and boats
 horse shoe crab
 Irish moss
 segmented
 oligochaete
 marine worm
 Lobster
 Sea Star
 marine grass
 al grass
 Weik
 weik eggs