

My Ocean Book on ORCAS



Written by Deyanira

Hello fellow students. My name is Deya  
and I'm a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at an elementary  
school in Watsonville. I'm in a special class where  
we are learning about *oceans* and I'd like to share  
with you about what *oceans* are, how *important*  
*they* are, and an *animal* of particular interest to  
me, orca.



*About me...*

But before I start my book, I'd like to share with you about some of my favorite things.

I like ice cream.

I like to listen to music.

I like animals.

I like to draw.



Okay, now I'm ready to write about what oceans are, their importance, and facts about one of my favorite animals, the orca.

First, *oceans* are essentially the largest ecosystem on planet earth, covering 67% of earth's surface. This can be demonstrated in the following ways below:



pie chart

67%

percentage

$$\frac{67}{100}$$

fraction

0.67

decimal

Second, since 97% of Earth's water is salt water, only 3% is fresh water. This means we must *all* make efforts to conserve and protect this vital resource.



pie chart

97%

percentage

$$\frac{97}{100}$$

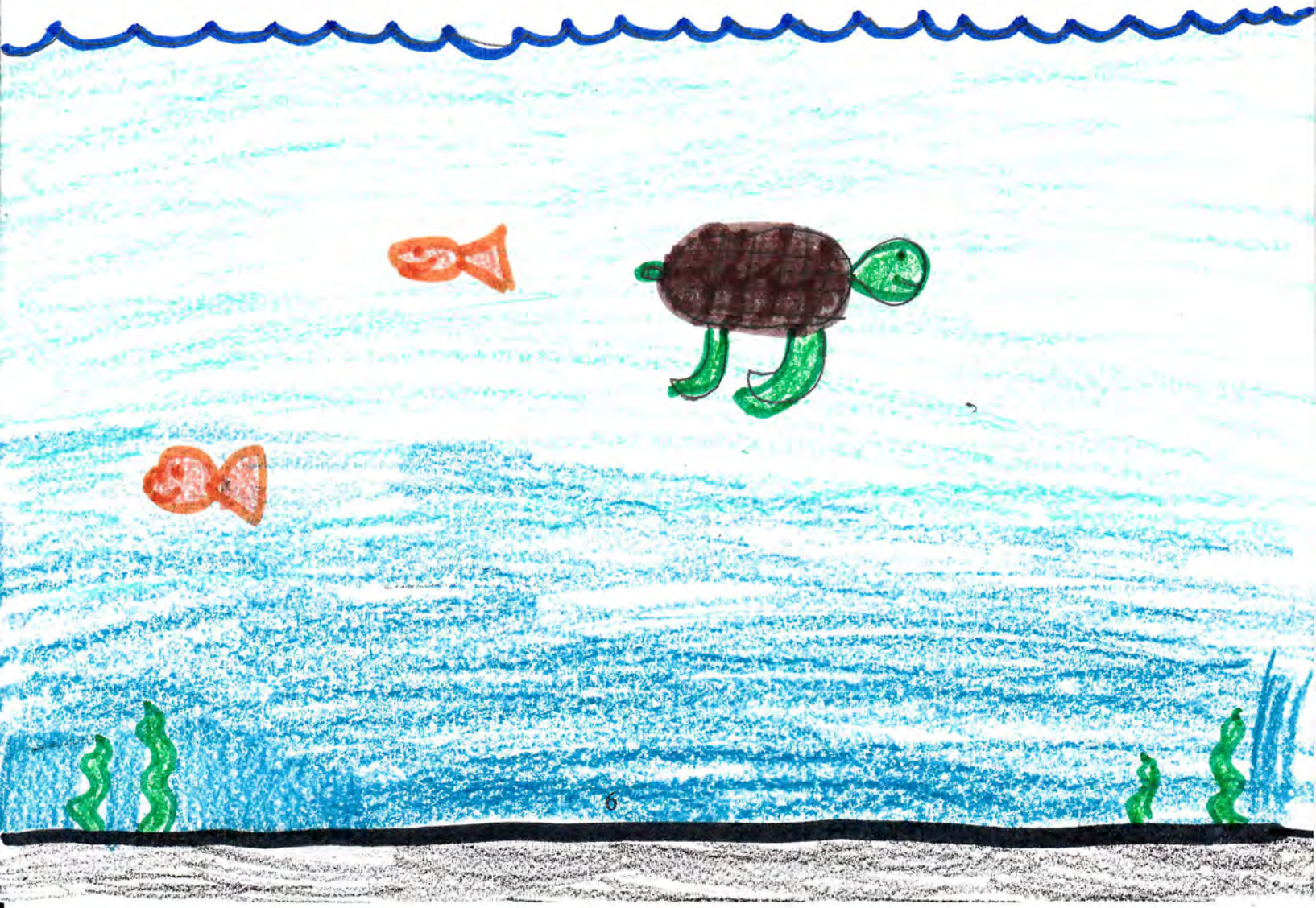
fraction

0.97

decimal

Third, we are very fortunate to literally have the ocean so close to us. The ocean serves many *important* purposes, such as:

- Habitat for many plants and animals
- source of water
- 3 zones



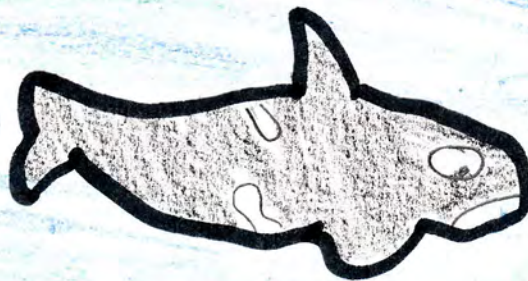
Fourth, there is a particular *animal* of interest to me, namely the orca. I chose this *animal* because I love ORCAS because I think they're cute.

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In the following paragraphs, I will briefly discuss what I researched about my animal of interest, the OSCA. I will cover the following: classification, common name, scientific name, physical characteristics, behavior, if the animal camouflages, adaptations, range, migratory, population, status, reproduction, habitat, prey, predators, where animal fits in food web, and whether the Ohlone Indians used the animal for food, clothing, or other purposes.  
*I hope you enjoy the book!*





## *Classification*

The orca is a vertebrate because it has a backbone. It is classified as a mammal because they have hair on their chins, they're warm blooded and they have live births.

## *Names*

The orca has two names. The common name is killer whale, and the *scientific name* is Orcinus orca.

In science, the *scientific name* is the genus and species of the animal or plant.

*Physical characteristics... my animal looks like...*

My animal has a sleek and fusiform body shape. The female weighs 1,361 - 3,628 kg and the male weighs 3,628 - 5,442 kg. The female length is 4.9 m - 5.8 m and the male length is 5.8 m - 6.7 m.



*Camouflage... does my animal blend into its environment?*

After looking at my animal and reading more about it, I realize that its black back camouflages in the dark water and its stomach is white and camouflages with the surface of the water if down below looking up.

## *Adaptations*

My animal is unique because it can  
dive 200 ft and it can hear  
30 miles away.

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## *Animal behavior*

The way I would describe the behavior of my  
animal is foraging, traveling, resting, socializing,  
courtship, communication, play, dislodging-  
Parasites, breaching, and spy hopping.

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## Range

The orca is found world wide.



**Migratory...does it travel from one location to another during seasons?**

The ORCAS migrate. For example, the transient orcas migrate and hunt baby grey whales in California and they can migrate to South America (Argentina) and hunt Seal pups.

## *Population*

The population of my animal is 50,000  
minimum

## *Status*

The status of the orca tells me  
whether it is endangered, threatened, or stable.  
What I found out is that the orca is  
Endangered. I find this  
interesting because there should be laws  
that protect them.

## ***Reproduction***

The reproduction of the orca is  
16-17 months and the babies are  
6.5-8 feet long. They weigh 400  
pounds.

## ***Habitat...home***

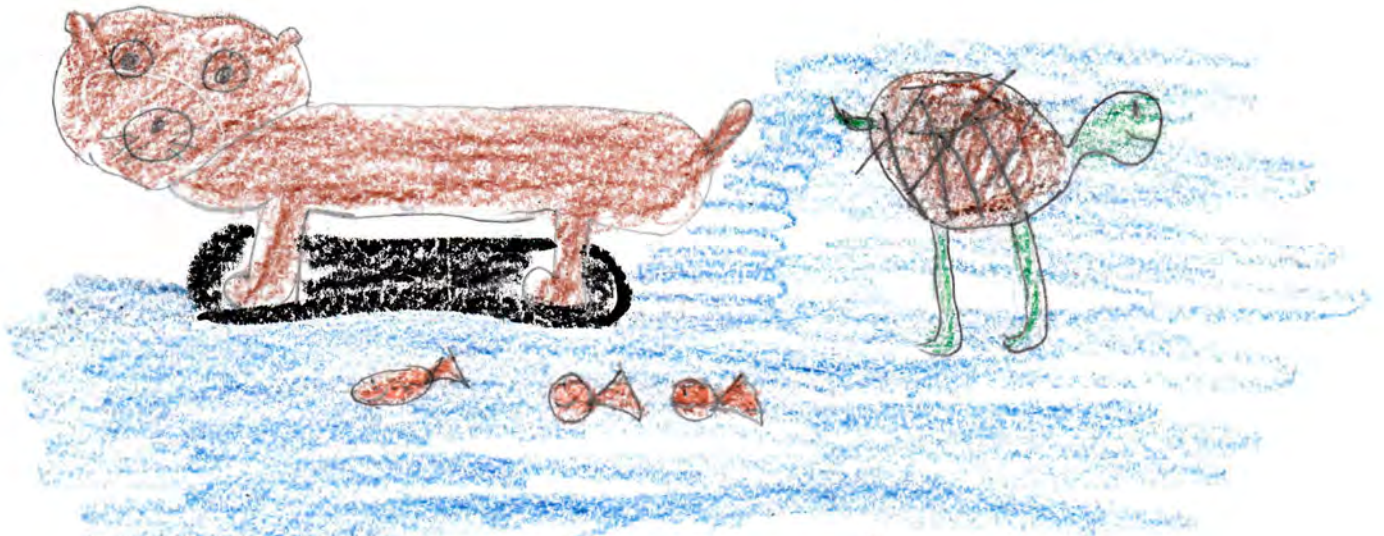
The orca's habitat is the cold  
deep ocean

**Prey and predator...(to eat and to be eaten)**

**The prey my animal eats are:** fish, squids,  
seal lions, walruses, birds, sea turtles,  
otter, penguins, cetaceans, polar bears, & reptiles.

**My animal eats other things such as:**

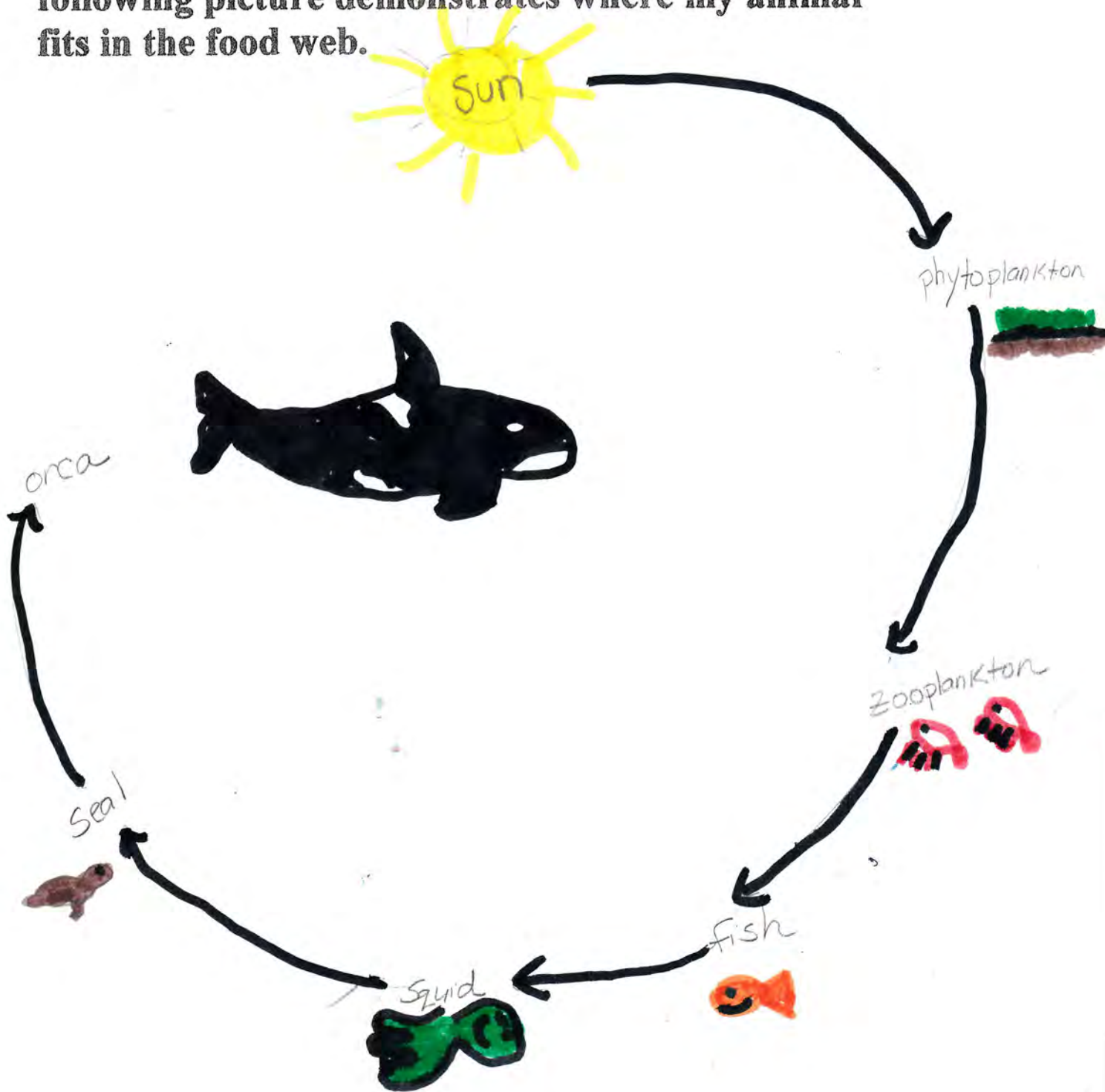
grey whale babies.



**The predators that eat me are:** human  
beings, such as the Chinese fishermen  
who hunt them for their meat.

# Food web

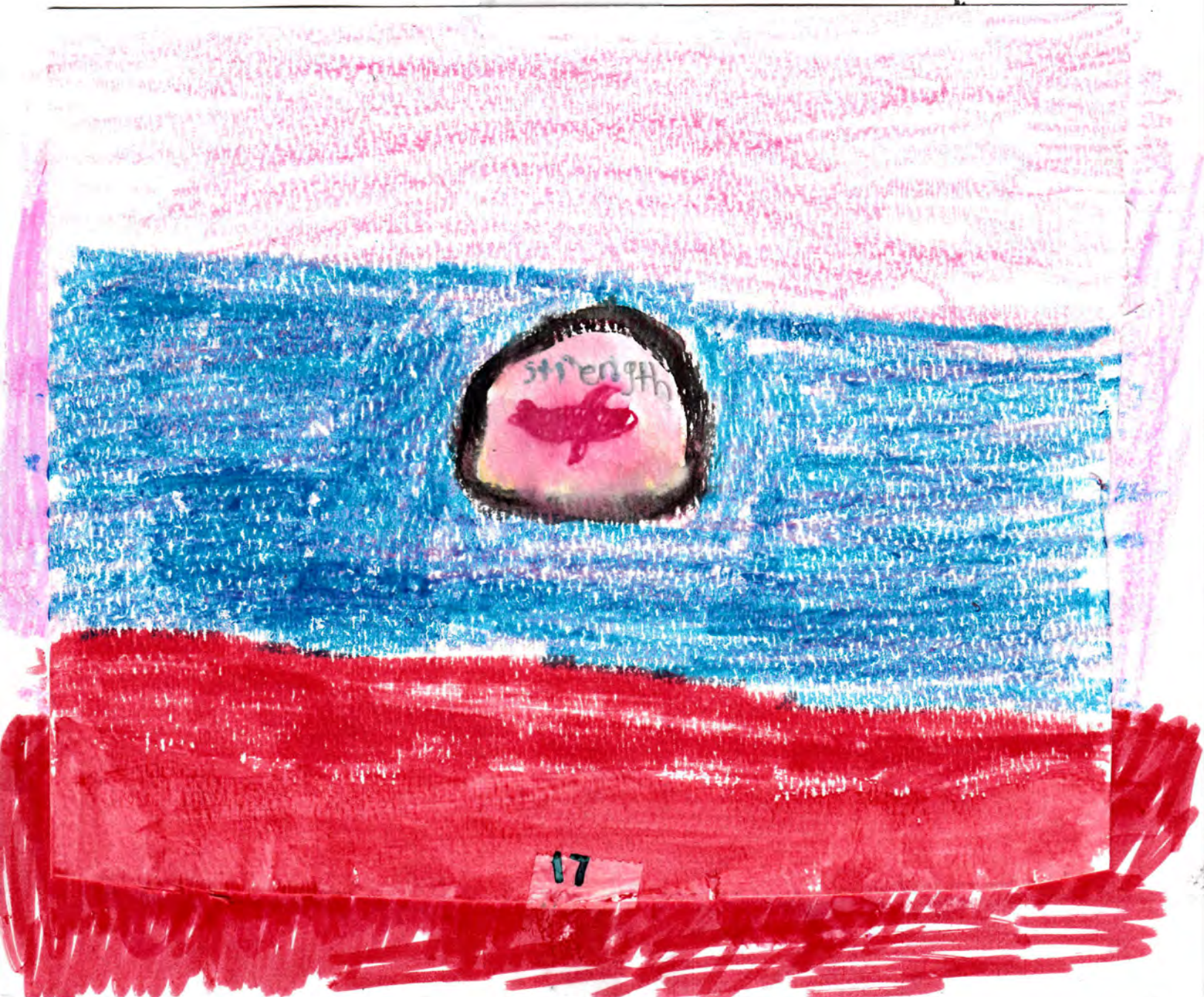
My animal is a ORCA. The following picture demonstrates where my animal fits in the food web.





## Ohlone Indians

I'm curious to see if the Ohlone Indians used the occa in anyway, for example, for food, clothing, or for other purposes. What I discovered is that they use it as a symbol of strength



## References

(books, articles, web-sites, etc. )

[www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)

encycloPedia

yahoo/killerwhale

wildlife/orca

Thank you for reading my book. I hope you enjoyed it and learned a lot about the orcas. Please feel free to comment about my book and also, test your knowledge by answering the following *questions* below. I look forward to hearing from you.

Comments for me:

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Questions for you: *(See if you can answer these?)*

1. What does the orca eat?
2. Why are oceans important?
3. Is an orca a vertebrate?