

THE SUN

What am I?

- The sun is the main source of energy for life on Earth.

What do I eat?

- Energy is transferred from the sun by producers, who make their own energy from the sun using photosynthesis, and are then eaten by consumers

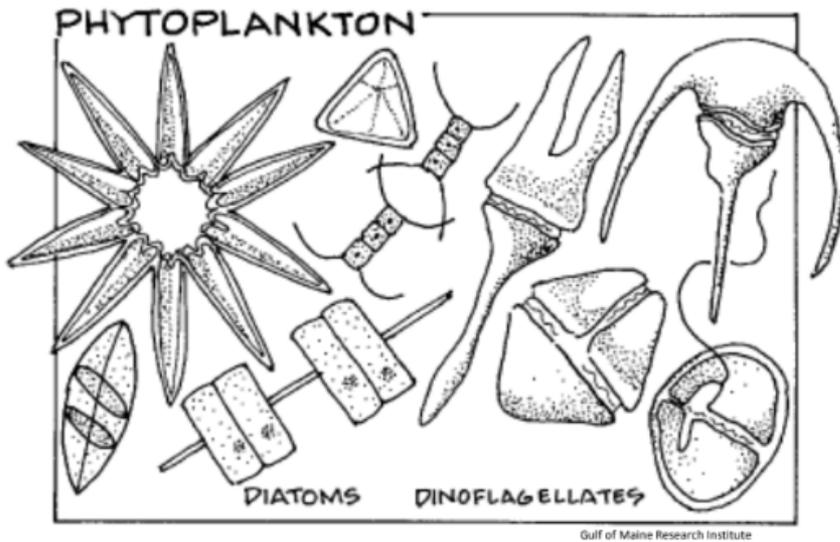
What eats me?

- My energy rays are used by photosynthesizing plants on land and in the water

How big am I?

- Although I am very big, my energy rays travel very far to the earth. Some of these rays are seen by humans as sunlight, other rays cannot be seen with the human eye.

PHYTOPLANKTON



What am I?

- Phytoplankton are plant-like plankton (an organism that cannot swim against the current).

What do I eat?

- Phytoplankton do photosynthesis, meaning they get their energy from carbon dioxide and the sun, to make sugars (glucose) and oxygen

What eats me?

- I am eaten by clams, baby crabs, zooplankton, oysters, and mummichogs

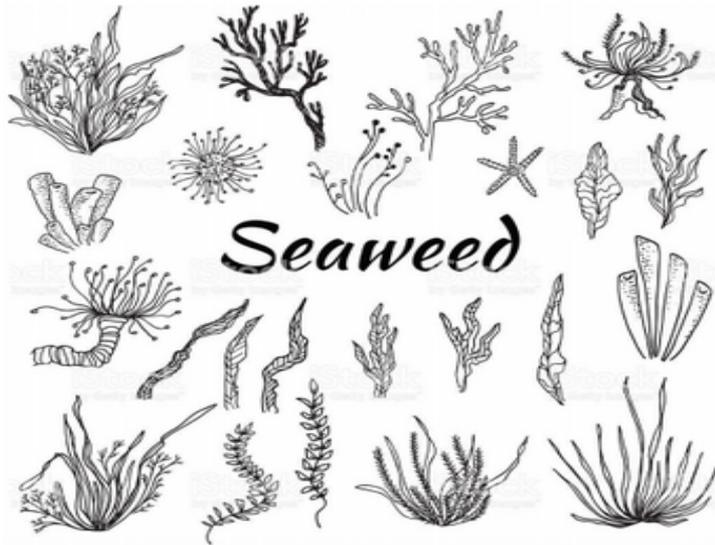
How big am I?

- I am very small, you will need a microscope to see me!

SEAWEED

What am I?

- Seaweed is a type of plant that grows underwater.



What do I eat?

- Seaweed do photosynthesis, meaning they get their energy from carbon dioxide and the sun, to make sugars (glucose) and oxygen

What eats me?

- I am eaten by many different herbivores and omnivores such as blue crabs and shrimp

How big am I?

- As I am a plant, I can be found as small and large pieces

ZOOPLANKTON

What am I?

- Zooplankton are animal plankton (organisms that cannot swim against the current).



What do I eat?

- Zooplankton get their energy from eating phytoplankton, other zooplankton, and larvae (baby fish and other animals)

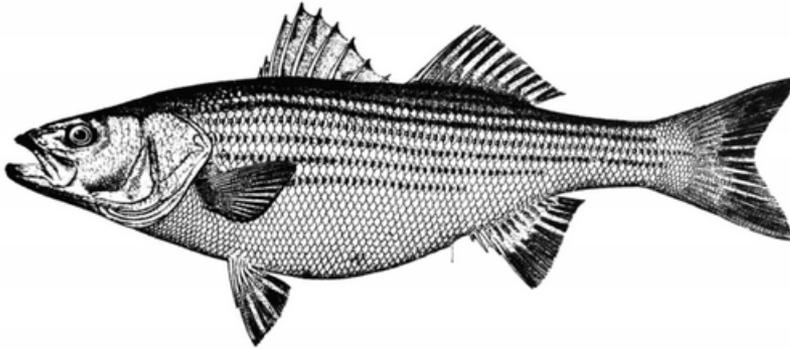
What eats me?

- I am eaten by many different carnivores and omnivores such as mummichogs and shrimp

How big am I?

- I am often very small and can be seen best under a microscope

STRIPED BASS



What am I?

- Striped bass are one of the top predators of the Hudson River estuary. They are a fish that spend most of their 20-30 years out in the ocean. They come to the estuary to mate and live the first few years of their life.

What do I eat?

- Striped bass eat most other small fishes like Atlantic silversides and mummichogs, as well as small blue crabs and other crustaceans

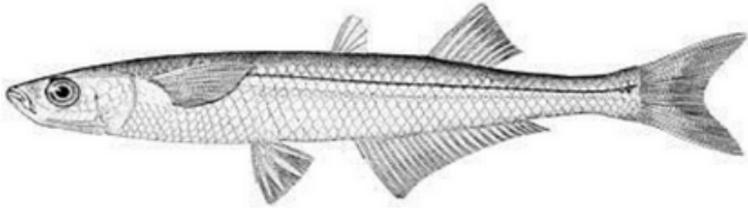
What eats me?

- Bigger fish, birds, and crabs

How big am I?

- When I am young, I fit in your hands. When I get older, I can become as big as a kindergartener!

ATLANTIC SILVERSIDE



What am I?

- Atlantic silversides are a small bait fish that swim in large schools.

What do I eat?

- Algae and zooplankton like small crabs, shrimp, worms, and insects

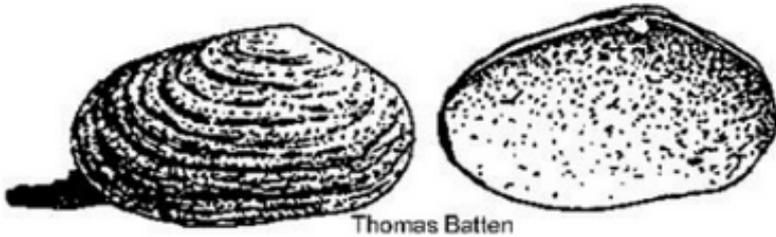
What eats me?

- Bigger fish and crabs

How big am I?

- I am a very small fish and do not grow to be any bigger than the palm of your hands

SOFT SHELL CLAM



What am I?

- Soft shell clams are invertebrates, meaning they don't have a backbone. They have hard shells, but they are easily breakable. They're also called "bivalves" because they have 2 shells.

What do I eat?

- Phytoplankton. I live in the mud and filter out plankton from the water

What eats me?

- I am eaten by blue crabs and birds

How big am I?

- I am usually quite small, but often live in large communities that can span miles long

EASTERN OYSTER



What am I?

- Oysters are an important bivalve, meaning they have 2 shells. They're invertebrates, so they don't have any backbones. They live on the bottom of the tidal zone of the river and make great habitat for other animals.

What do I eat?

- I filter out phytoplankton from the water

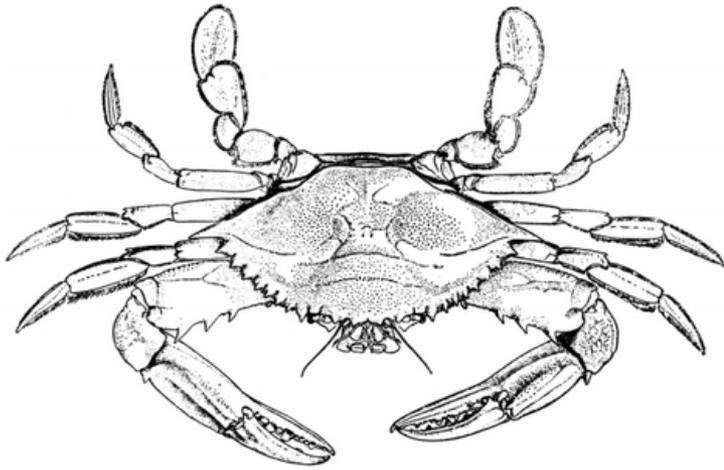
What eats me?

- I am eaten by blue crabs and birds

How big am I?

- I am usually quite small, but often live in large communities that can span miles long

BLUE CRAB



What am I?

- Blue crabs are a major predator in the Hudson River. They are invertebrates, meaning they don't have a backbone, but they do have an exoskeleton (a hard shell outside their body).

What do I eat?

- I have strong, sharp claws to catch and eat animals, and good back legs to use for swimming around the water; so I eat mostly anything I can get my claws on – fish, oysters, worms, other crabs, shrimp, and even plankton when I am younger

What eats me?

- I am eaten by other blue crabs, birds, and bigger fish

How big am I?

- When I am young I am as small as your fingernail, but I can become as big as your hand

CORMORANT



What am I?

- Cormorants are common shorebirds that live along the Hudson River. They have webbed feet, are excellent divers, and have special feathers to help them deal with getting wet.

What do I eat?

- Cormorants love to eat fish like striped bass, white perch, bluefish, and silversides

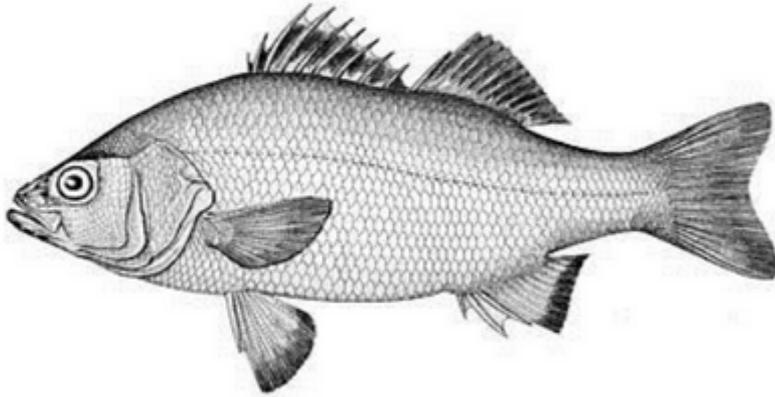
What eats me?

- My babies and eggs are often preyed upon by other big birds and some land animals like coyotes, foxes, and raccoons

How big am I?

- At my adult stage of life, I can become up to 2-3 feet tall

WHITE PERCH



What am I?

- White perch are a common Hudson River fish that are some of the biggest predators. They are actually a bass, not a perch. They have also adapted to live in full saltwater, brackish water, and fresh water, meaning they can survive in all 315 miles of the Hudson!

What do I eat?

- White perches eat small fish like mummichogs, fish eggs, and invertebrates like shrimps, worms, and clams

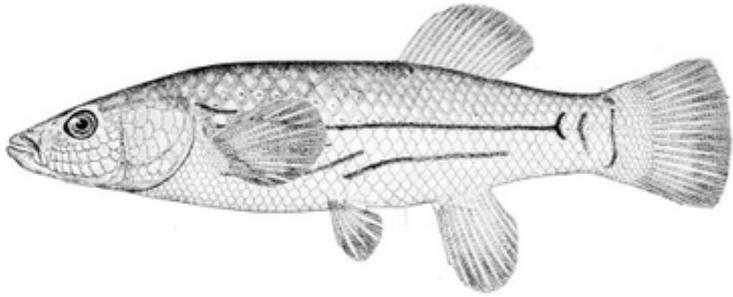
What eats me?

- My babies and eggs are often preyed upon by other bigger fish and invertebrates like crabs; when I am older my biggest prey is adult striped bass

How big am I?

- At my adult stage of life, I can become up to 8-10 inches long

MUMMICHOG



What am I?

- Mummichogs are small and common fish in the Hudson. They live in sheltered shorelines and shallow coastal waters.

What do I eat?

- Mummichogs are omnivores, meaning they eat algae and phytoplankton, and also small fish, and invertebrates like shrimp and crabs

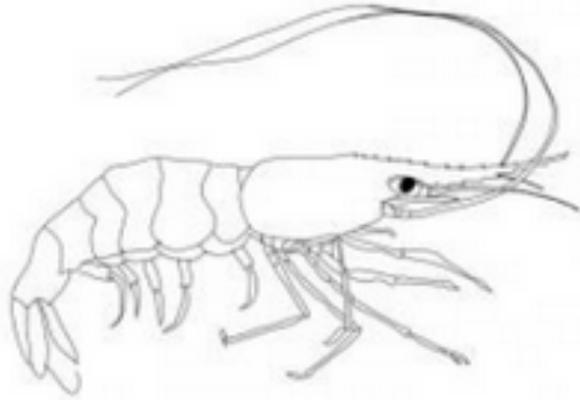
What eats me?

- Bigger fish and crabs

How big am I?

- I am a very small fish and do not grow to be any bigger than the palm of your hands

GRASS SHRIMP



What am I?

- Grass shrimp are a common invertebrate (animal with no backbone). They are see-through making them good at camouflage in the Hudson River. They live in shallow, muddy areas on the coast.

What do I eat?

- Grass shrimp are omnivores, so they eat plants and animals, including algae, worms, and zooplankton

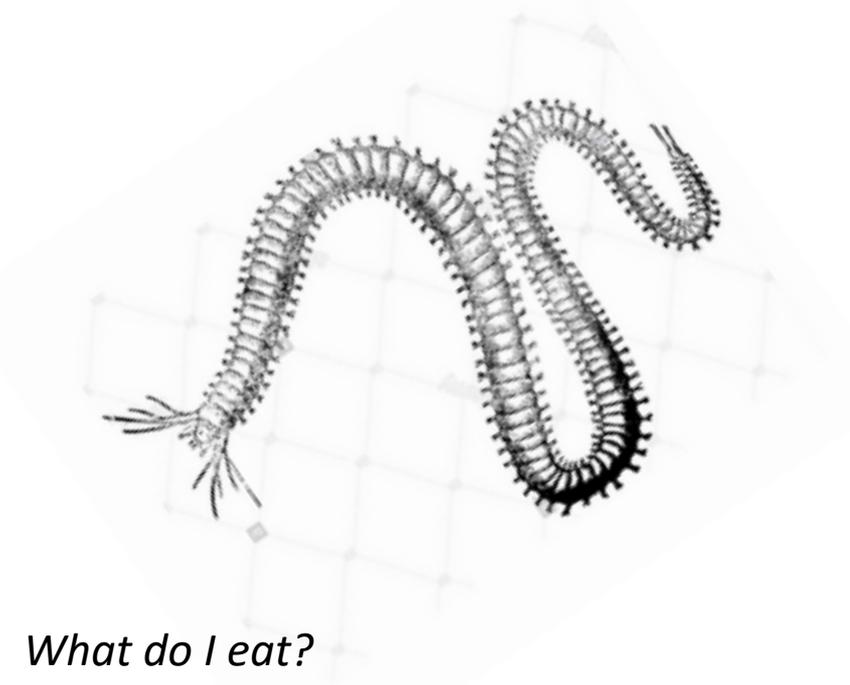
What eats me?

- Silversides, white perch, crabs, and mummichogs

How big am I?

- I am small for most of my life – no bigger than a quarter

CLAM WORM



What am I?

- Clam worms are marine worms that live in the mud at the bottom of the Hudson River. They can sometimes grow up to 15 cm (almost 6 inches) long!

What do I eat?

- Clam worms are detritivores, meaning they eat dead materials in the mud

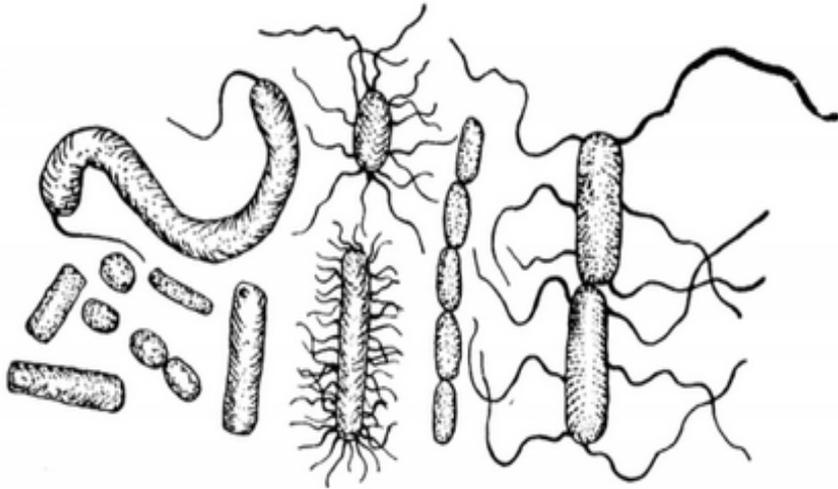
What eats me?

- Fish and crabs

How big am I?

- I am fairly small – usually just an inch or two long

BACTERIA



What am I?

- Bacteria are tiny microscopic organisms that live all around us, in the water, in the air, and even on our bodies. Marine bacteria live in nearly every drop of water in the Hudson River and oceans.

What do I eat?

- Bacteria are decomposers, meaning they feed on things in the water that have died. This helps recycle nutrients in the food web

What eats me?

- I live everywhere so I am consumed by everything

How big am I?

- I am very tiny. You will need a very powerful microscope to see me.