A Whale of a Food Tale

Welcome to the Milstein Hall of Ocean Life!

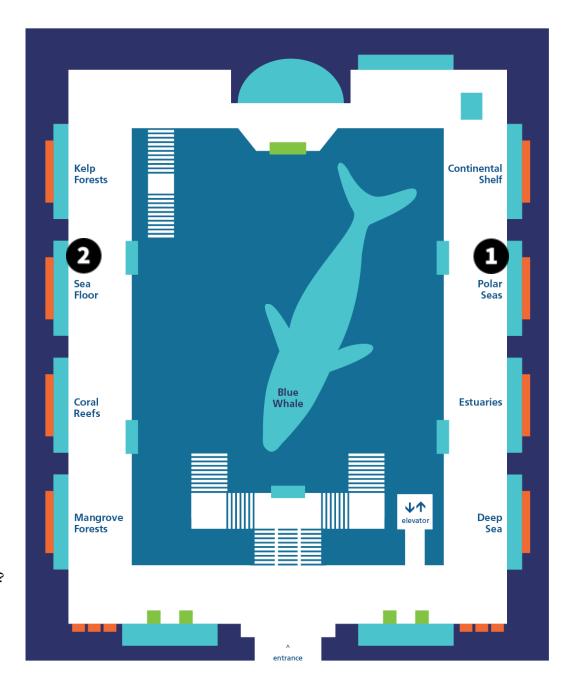
Visit two ecosystem exhibits on the upper level of the hall to explore a whale's food chain and how energy is transferred between marine organisms.

STOP 1 **Polar Seas**

Investigation Question: What feeds a whale?

STOP 2 Sea Floor

Investigation Question: What does a whale feed?



The upper level of the hall features eight marine ecosystems.

And the big empty space in the middle of the hall represents another marine ecosystem: the open ocean!

A Whale of a Food Tale | PART 1: What Feeds a Whale?

Go to the **Polar Seas** ecosystem exhibit on the upper level of the hall. On this worksheet, follow the numbered steps (start with #1 at the bottom) to discover a whale's food chain.

What gives energy to the algae? Draw the **Sun**:

Do you see the tiny algae that the krill eats? (Hint: It's the brownish-green stuff on the ice!) Sketch it and note a fun fact:

> Based on what you explored: How does a blue whale get so massive?

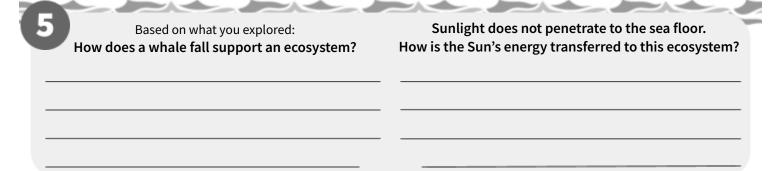
gives energy

> What small animals does the blue whale eat? Find the krill in the Polar Seas exhibit. Sketch it and note a fun fact:

> > Look at the giant blue whale model. Sketch it and note an interesting observation

A Whale of a Food Tale | PART 2: What Does a Whale Feed?

Go to the **Sea Floor** ecosystem exhibit on the opposite side of the upper level. On this worksheet, follow the numbered steps (start with #1 at the bottom) to discover another part of the whale's food chain.



What organisms feed on the whale fall first? Pick one and sketch it. Note its name and a fun fact:

What organisms feed on nutrients from the whale fall over the next few years? Pick one and sketch it. Note its name and a fun fact:

> What organisms get their energy from the whale bones? Pick one and sketch it. Note its name and a fun fact:

Look at the carcass of a whale in the Sea Floor exhibit. It is called a whale fall. Sketch it and note a fun fact: