‘Who eats who’ game cards

Sheet 1

Large fish

Large fish such as mackerel, small sharks and tuna feed on a wide range of small fish, including red-throat emperor and squid. Large fish are eaten by bull sharks.

Large fish

Small fish

There are many species of small fish in Moreton Bay. Many of them graze on algae and zooplankton. Many also eat prawns. Small fish are a major food source for the red-throat emperor, other large fish and the kingfisher.

Small fish

Squid

There are many different types of squid, but all squid species have eight arms and two tentacles. Squid like to eat small fish and prawns. In turn, squid form an important part of the diet of sharks, including the bull shark, red-throat emperor and other large fish.

Squid

Prawns

Prawns are omnivores and their diet can include a range of food types, including algae and seagrass. Prawns are a food source for larger animals, including small and large fish, red-throat emperor and squid.

Prawns

Dugong

The dugong is a marine herbivore and is referred to as a 'sea cow'. Its snout is adapted for grazing and uprooting seagrasses, which are its main food source. The dugong will feed on algae if seagrass is in short supply. Sometimes bull sharks will attack and eat a dugong, but otherwise they have no known natural predators.

Dugong

Kingfisher

Kingfishers belong to a group of birds that are brightly-coloured, and have pointed beaks and short legs. Kingfishers consume a wide variety of food, including small fish. Although kingfishers don't live in the ocean, bull sharks sometimes eat them when the kingfishers are diving for food.

Kingfisher

Seagrass

Seagrasses are flowering plants which grow in marine environments. The leaves are long and narrow, and the plants often grow in large 'meadows' on the sea floor. Seagrasses photosynthesise and can only grow in shallow areas. They are a very important food source for dugongs and prawns.

Seagrass

Red-throat emperor

The red-throat emperor lives to around 20 years of age and is a popular dish at many restaurants. They are eaten by sharks, including bull sharks, and by other large fish. Other predators of the red-throat emperor are other large fish species. Red-throat emperors eat smaller fish, prawns, squid and crabs.

Red-throat emperor

Bull shark

The bull shark will eat almost anything, including large and small fish, kingfisher, dugongs and squid. The bull shark has no natural predators and is an apex predator of the Moreton Bay marine food web.

Bull shark

Plankton

Plankton are microscopic organisms that include a wide variety of species. Plankton drifts with the current. Plankton provides an important source of food for many marine animals, such as prawns, small fish and small crabs.

Plankton

Algae

There are many different types of marine algae, including red, green and brown algae. Algae can range from microscopic to large in size. Algae use sunlight for photosynthesis. Many different types of organisms, such as prawns, small fish and crabs, feed on marine algae, and it is a very important producer in the marine food web.

Algae

Small crabs

There are a few different species of small crabs in Moreton Bay. They eat organic matter such as algae and plankton. Small crabs are eaten by red-throat emperor and kingfishers.

Small crabs