



Maine
Department of
Education

GRADE

5

Maine Science Assessment
Released Items (2025)
Student Version

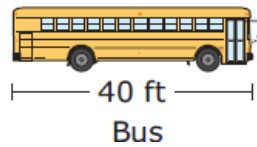
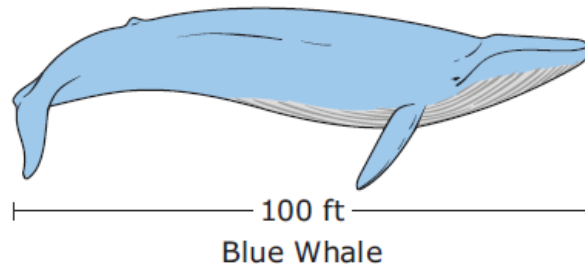


New Meridian

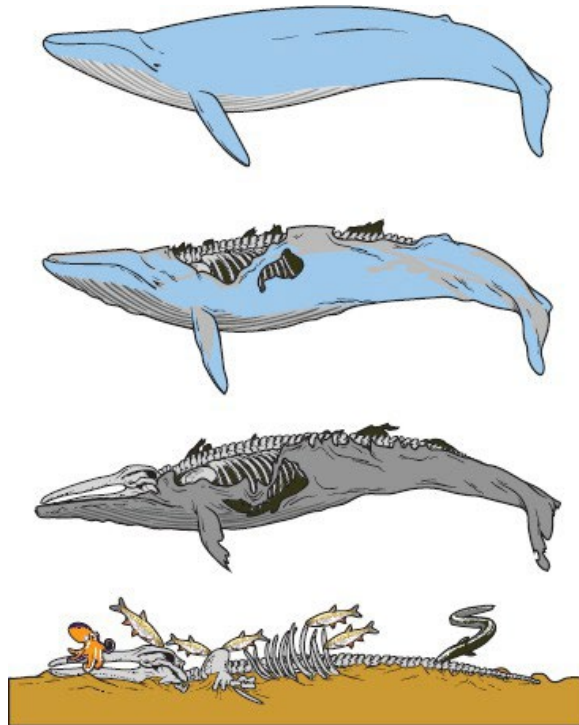
Use the information from Whale Fall to answer **questions 1-4**.

Whale Fall

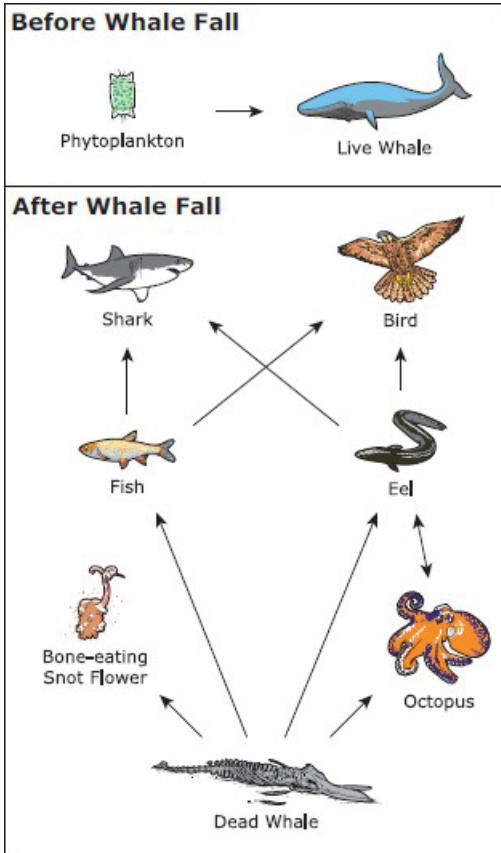
Cassidy works as a marine biologist. She is studying the effects the blue whale has on the ocean ecosystem.



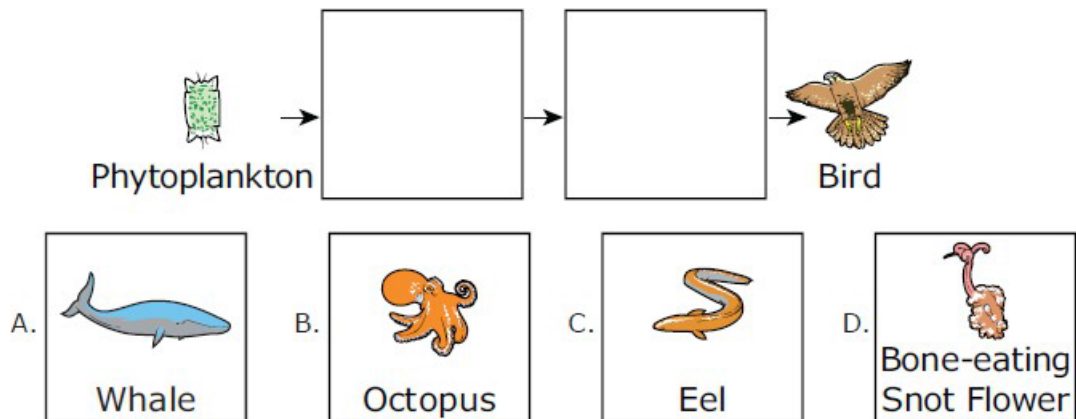
She also wonders about the effects the blue whale's very large body may have on the marine ecosystem once the whale dies and sinks to the bottom of the ocean. This process is known as whale fall.



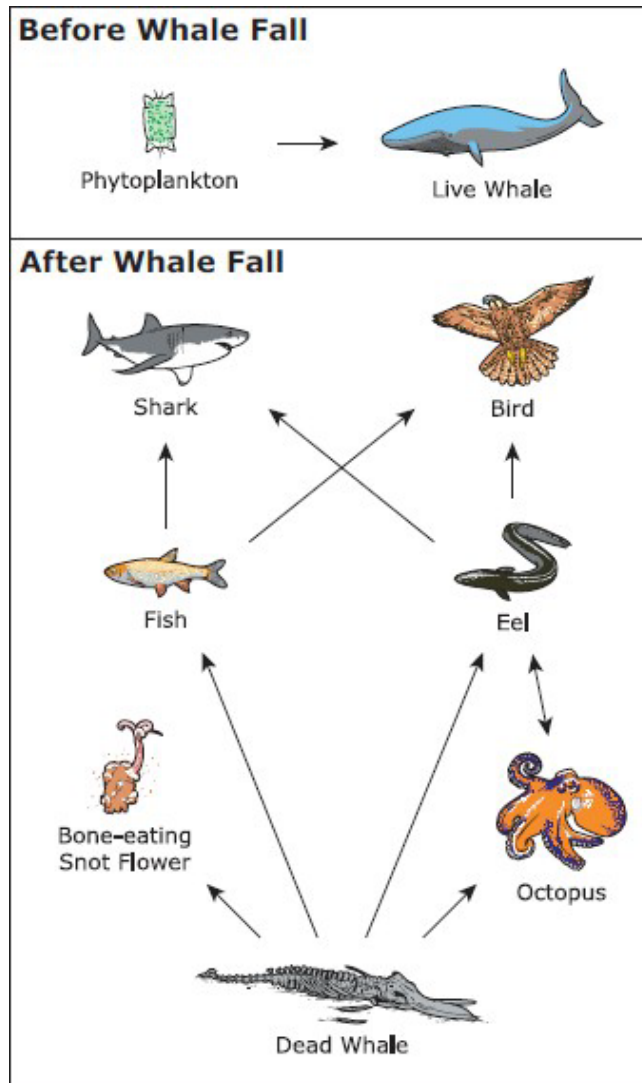
- Cassidy wants to understand how the blue whale supports other organisms in its ocean ecosystem. She finds a food web which shows how energy and matter transfer to the organisms in an ecosystem.



How do phytoplankton contribute to the matter that birds can use to grow or repair their bodies in this ecosystem? Write the letter of the organisms in the boxes to complete the food chain.



2. Which organisms are scavengers in the blue whale's ecosystem? Circle the organisms in the food web.



3. Why are scavengers and decomposers important to the marine ecosystem?

- (A) Scavengers and decomposers recycle matter back into the ecosystem.
- (B) Scavengers and decomposers limit the fish population in the ecosystem.
- (C) Scavengers and decomposers feed off of live blue whales as they swim in the ecosystem.
- (D) Scavengers and decomposers eat the bone-eating snot flower worms found in the ecosystem.

