

NAME _____ DATE _____

PLASTIC IMPACTS: APEX PREDATORS

When we think of apex predators in the ocean, we often picture large sharks like the great white. However, there are many other apex predators in the ocean!

1. Search online to find other examples of ocean apex predators. Can you name at least five that are not sharks?

Read this article, then answer Questions 2 and 3:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2018/06/whale-dead-plastic-bags-thailand-animals/?ngscourse>

2. How is it possible for something as small and flimsy as a plastic bag to kill a whale?

3. How many other species of animals have died from ingesting plastic?

Read this article, then answer Questions 4 and 5:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/01/digit-sperm-whale-saved-from-rope-entanglement-ghost-net-fishing-gear-off-dominica/?ngscourse>

4. What kind of plastic got caught around Digit, and how did this entanglement affect her?

5. What eventually happened to Digit?

Complete this side when you return to your project group.

Trophic Level	Example Organisms	Ingestion Impacts	Entanglement Impacts
Primary Consumers			
Secondary and Tertiary Consumers			
Apex Predators			
Decomposers			