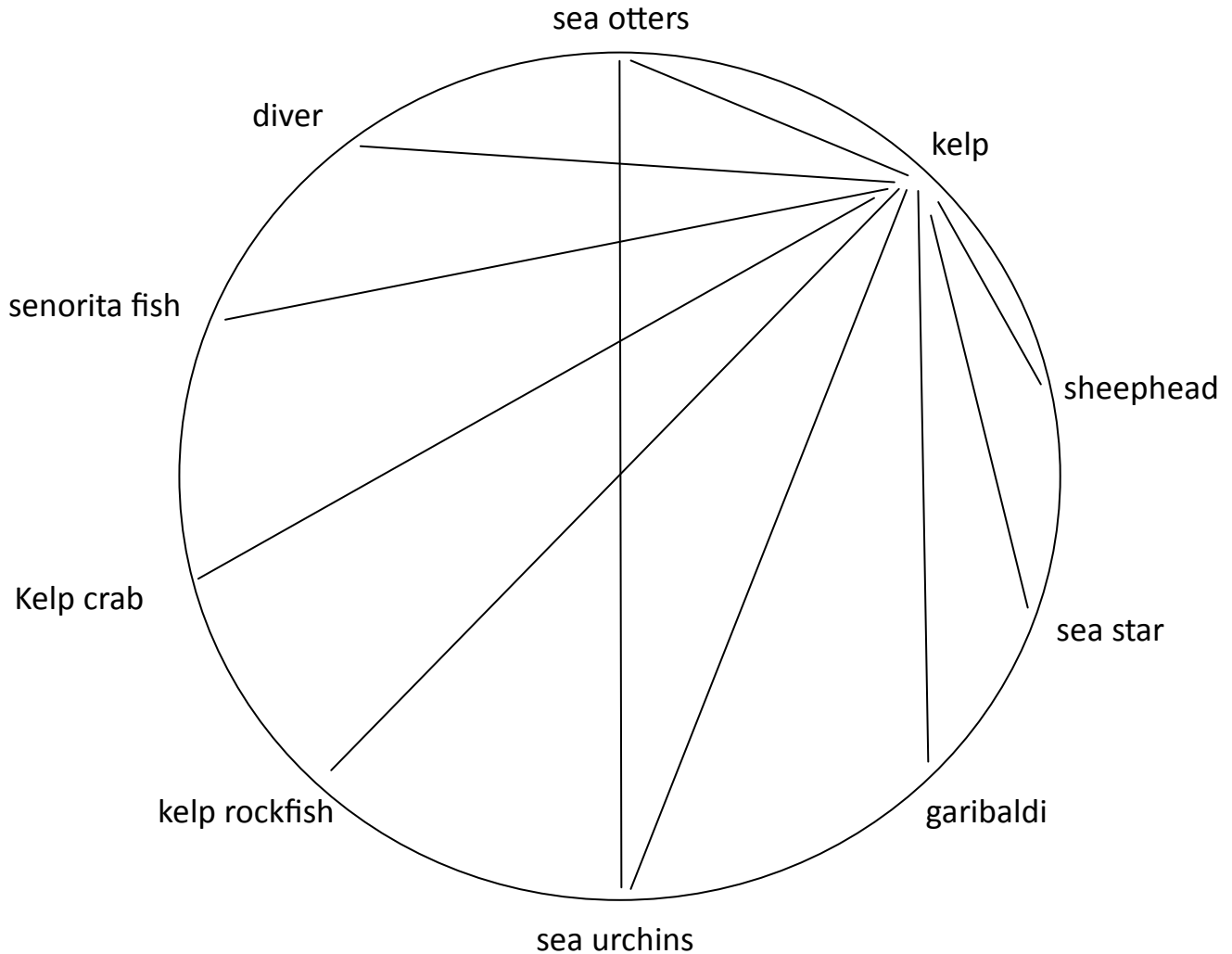


# Kelp Connection Activity

If otters are not present the entire web is affected. Have the “otter “ drop their cord. The number of urchins increases when otters are gone. Urchins eat the kelp at the base and it drifts away. Then have the “kelp” person drop their cords, which connect to everything else in the ecosystem. What is an ecosystem? Can they think of other examples?



Sea otters rest and feed in kelp.

Sea otters eat urchins..

Urchins eat kelp.

Kelp crabs, fish, and sunflower sea stars live in kelp.

People like to dive in kelp.

Sea otters help maintain healthy kelp forests by eating animals that eat kelp.

*Group sizes vary. The sea otter, kelp, urchin, a fish, crab, and diver should be used. If groups are large, use more fish or extra kelp cards. You can also have students work as partners.*