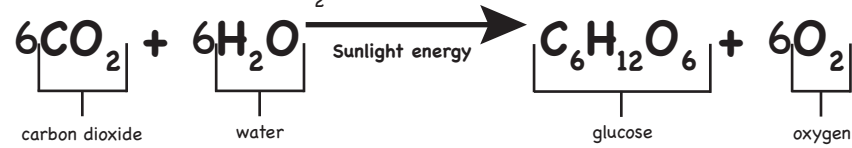
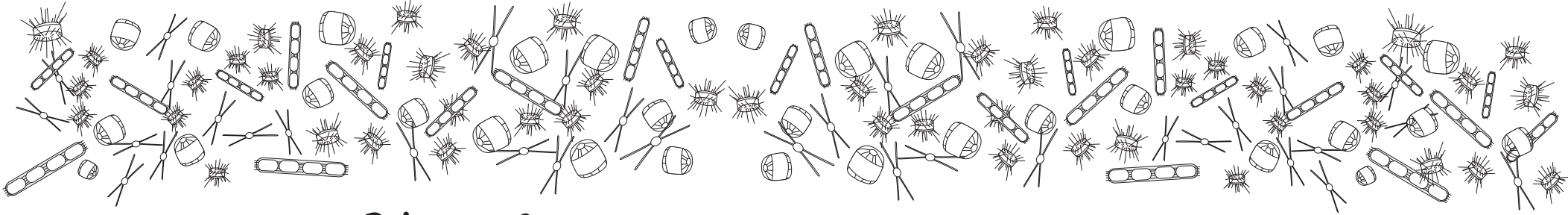


Primary Producers

Phytoplankton use solar energy to convert dissolved CO_2 and other nutrients into their food source by a process called **photosynthesis**

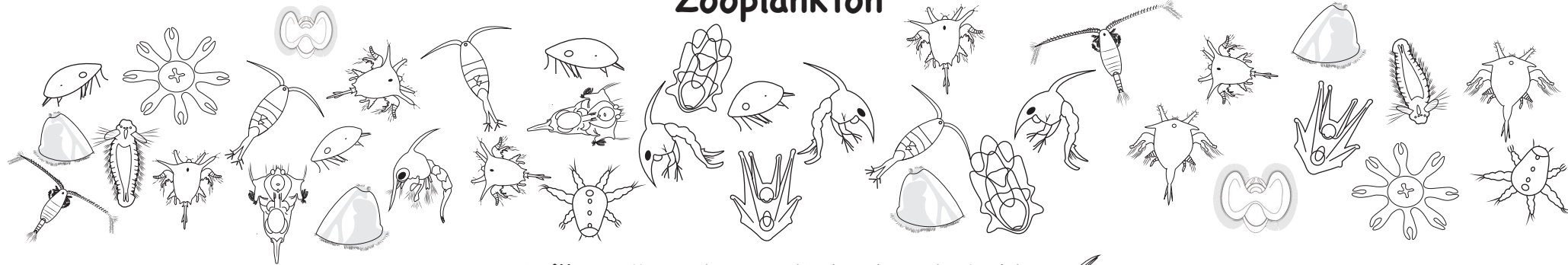


Phytoplankton convert carbon dioxide, nutrients, and water with energy from the sun into sugars that are used as "food" and dissolved oxygen. Phytoplankton have chloroplasts just like plants, giving them a green color. There are so many phytoplankton in the ocean that they produced 70% of our atmospheric oxygen through photosynthesis.

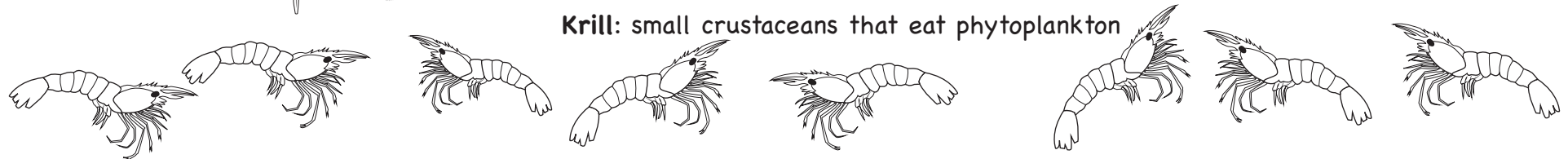


Primary Consumers: Small drifting animals that eat phytoplankton.

Zooplankton



Krill: small crustaceans that eat phytoplankton



Secondary Consumers

Small fish such as sardines feed on zooplankton, breed fast, and occur in large numbers.

