



Feeding Frenzy Set Up Directions

1. Mix popcorn and foam pieces – you want about 3 pieces of popcorn for every piece of foam.
2. Spread the popcorn-foam mix onto the station table or a tarp or cloth on the floor.
3. Prepare 6 “stomach baggies.” For each one, use a fanny pack or string a shopping bag onto a piece of twine that is long enough to be tied around a student’s waist.
4. Set plastic spoons with stomach baggies next to the station.
5. Place a stopwatch and first page of student directions in a prominent place at the station.
6. Keep the second page of student directions with you: “Feeding Frenzy – Unknown Foam.”
7. The students will come get this page from you once they have completed the first round.



Feeding Frenzy

Student Instructions - Page 1

1. At this station, imagine that you are seabirds that feed on small fish and zooplankton like crab and mollusk larvae.
2. Pick up a “stomach baggie” (fanny pack or bag on a string) and tie it around your waist. This is where you will put all your food.
3. Pick up a spoon with one hand. This will be your “mouth.” You can only use this mouth to pick up food and transfer it into your stomach.
4. When every seabird is ready with their mouth and stomach, stand around the feeding area filled with popcorn. The popcorn represents small fish, a favorite food for seabirds.
5. One seabird must start the stopwatch, and then everyone has 1 minute to gather food.
6. Pick up food one piece at a time with your spoon-mouth and transfer it to your stomach.
7. You may not walk on the feeding area, but you can reach into it with your mouth.
8. At the end of one minute, everyone must stop.
9. Send one seabird from your group to get the next set of directions from the teacher.





Feeding Frenzy

Student Instructions - Page 2: Unknown Foam

1. Find a spot to carefully empty your stomach contents. Make sure they don't mix with anyone else's food.
2. Look closely at the things you ate. What do you notice?
3. Not all of what you gathered was food. Some is food: the popcorn plankton. But some is actually plastic pieces of marine debris foam.
4. Count how many pieces of foam you gathered as a seabird. Count how many pieces of popcorn plankton you gathered. Record this information in your science notebook.
5. Because foam can't be digested it accumulates in the stomachs of seabirds and fish. Place the pieces of foam you gathered back in your stomach baggie. Scatter the popcorn back in the feeding area.
6. Once all the seabirds are ready, set the stopwatch for 1 minute and feed again. After one minute, stop feeding.
7. Count up how much food and foam is in your stomach.
8. Answer these questions in your science notebook:
 - How much foam was in your stomach at the end of the second round?
 - How much food did you have in your stomach at the end of the second round?
 - How did this compare to the first round?
 - Was it hard for you to collect food once you knew that some of it was foam?
 - How would a real bird be affected by having foam in its stomach?
9. Scatter the foam and popcorn back in the feeding area and place your stomach baggies and spoons alongside.

**RETURN THIS PAGE OF DIRECTIONS TO
THE TEACHER WHEN YOU'RE DONE!**