

LIFE IN OCEANS

SEAL

SEAL

- DESCRIPTION

They are large animals, able to gracefully move through the water at speeds up to 23 miles per hour. They have flippers which help them to move along in the water. They have long whiskers that allow them to pick up vibrations from their prey and predators while in the water. They have fat bellies that they slide on awkwardly as they move along land. Their fat is important because it keeps them warm.



Seals are about 4 feet to 13 feet long and weigh 150 pounds to 8,500 pounds. They range in color from light grey to black depending on the species. There are some white ones as well.



- OTHER SPECIES

There are 9 known species of seals out there that have been identified. One of the biggest and most dangerous seal is the leopard seal.

1 Leopard Seal

2 Harp Seal

3 Harbor Seal

4 Gray Seal

5 Northern Elephant Seal

6 Southern Elephant Seal

7 Weddell Seal

8 Hawaiian Monk Seal

9 Mediterranean Monk Seal





- HABITAT

They can be found from the cold regions of the Antarctic to the very warm areas where it is extremely sunny. They are able to survive the low temperatures and icy conditions due to the layers of blubber they have on their bodies. Those that live in warmer areas don't have as much fat on them because they don't need it.

Most seals live where there is plenty of salt water. They love to dive deeply into the water in order to find the best selection of fish. They tend to live in environments where they won't be disturbed by humans or by predators. They enjoy land that has rocks and that is close to the water. They don't move fast or easily on land so being able to get from land to water without using very much energy is important.

- Relationship with humans

Seals have been known to attack humans that come too close to them. Most of the time this is during breeding season when they have higher levels of hormones and they are more irritable. Many seals attack to protect themselves or their young because they feel threatened.



Many humans view seals as a water creature that is fun to look at. They are often amused by their sounds, the way they arch their heads to the sun, and the way they clap their flappers. Yet not everyone out there is an avid fan of seals. Many humans compete for the same land as them.

● CONSERVATION

There is conflicting information about whether seals are endangered or not. In reality, some species are under threat while others, like the grey seal continue to increase in numbers.



The Seal Conservation Society is a non-profit organization that has been in place since 1996. Their goal is to offer effective ways to protect seals around the world and monitor seals to identify their current numbers. They contact political figures to push for further protection of seals as well.

- THREATS

Killer whales and Great White Sharks eat seals. Usually it is the slower seals including young, old and injured ones that are eaten by large predators.



- DIET

Seals eat small meals throughout the day. Like competitive athletes, they need to provide their bodies with enough fuel to perform at top levels. They usually eat fish and sometimes small penguins.



● LIFE CYCLE

SEA LIFE

The life cycle

All animals, including humans, start out as babies and get older.

When babies are born they are very small.

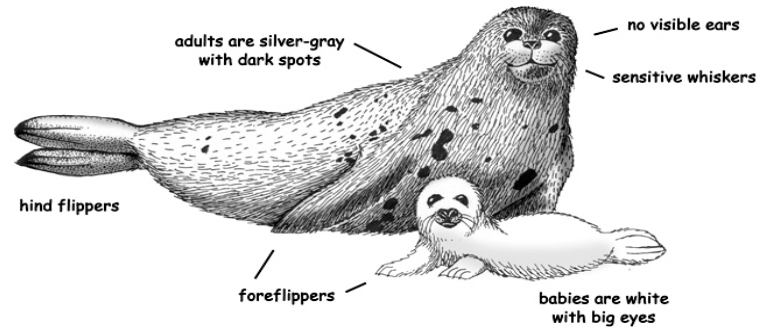
Some animals need their parents to protect them and to help them learn about the world.



Seal pup



Harp Seal *Pagophilus groenlandicus*



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Life Cycle

- 1st: Egg
- 2nd: At birth has yellow-white coat
- 3rd: After three days the coat turns white and stays white for about 12 days
- 4th: Grows to be 5.25- 6.25 feet
- 5th: They live for about 20 years

