

# **"Let's Learn About" Sea Mammals**

## **Table of Contents**

	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1</b>	Sea Mammals	4
<b>2</b>	Breathing Underwater	9
<b>3</b>	Sea Swimmers	14
<b>4</b>	Another Fish Tail	19
<b>5</b>	Ballet on the Sea	24
<b>6</b>	Got Teeth?	29
<b>7</b>	Whales with Filters	33
<b>8</b>	Sea Mammal Families	38
<b>9</b>	Underwater Languages	43
<b>10</b>	Born to Roam	48
<b>11</b>	Sea Mammal Anatomy	53
<b>12</b>	Orcas and their Habits	58
<b>13</b>	The Deep	63
<b>14</b>	The Blue Whale	68
<b>15</b>	The Walrus	73
<b>16</b>	The Cute and Funny Seal	78
<b>17</b>	Cows in the Sea	83
<b>18</b>	Weird Whales	88
<b>19</b>	Even MORE Sea Mammals	93
<b>20</b>	Conservation of Animals	98
	Final Projects	

## UNIT ONE - Sea Mammals

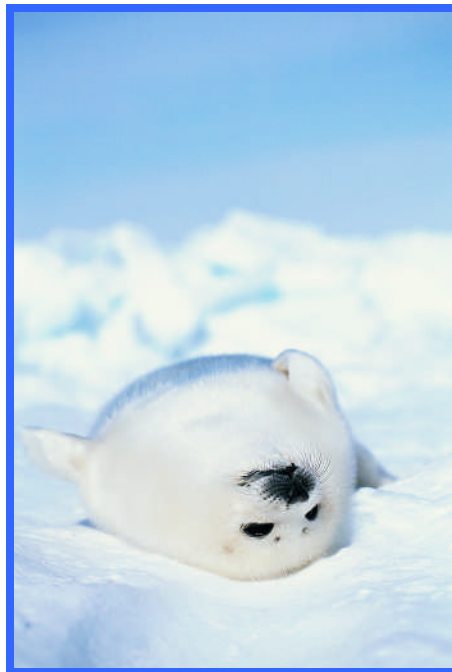
What are sea mammals you ask? That is a very good question because it is a good thing to know what a sea mammal is before you start a whole unit study course on "Whales, Dolphins, and Other Sea Mammals!"

First let me tell you what a sea mammal is not - it isn't a bird, fish, reptile, amphibian, or insect! A sea mammal is a mammal that lives in the sea. Now, I must ask you if you know what a mammal is. A **mammal** is a warm blooded animal that feeds their babies milk when they are little. They do not normally lay eggs like birds and fish, but some mammals do live in the sea!

Those are called **sea mammals**. They include whales, dolphins, seals, walruses, dugongs, sea otters, polar bears, and manatees.

All sea mammals breathe **oxygen** like land mammals because all mammals have lungs. One thing sea mammals have that is different from land mammals is a thick, oily, layer of blubber beneath their skin. **Blubber** is really another word for fat. This fat keeps them warm because fat is an insulator. Think about when you get dressed to

go out into the cold on a winter day - do you walk outside with no coat or boots on? You'd be freezing if you did because your coat and boots help keep your body heat from escaping into the frigid air! **A sea mammal's blubber is like your winter gear, it keeps the heat from escaping.**



Some baby seals have white fur that helps protect them from other animals that hunt them for food.

Now that you have learned the first few facts about sea mammals, see if you can answer the questions on the next few pages.

## Activity 1.1

### Matching Vocabulary

Vocabulary is another word for "important words to remember!" You probably already know all the important words below because you just read about them, but play along all the same.

**Directions:** Match the vocabulary word on the left with the proper definition on the right. Put the correct letter on the blank.

#### Vocabulary Words

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Blubber

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Oxygen

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Mammal

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Sea  
Mammal

#### Definitions

A. What all mammals breathe

B. Mammal that lives in the sea

C. A layer of fat that keeps animals warm

D. A warm blooded animal that feeds their young milk



## Activity 1.2

### Alphabetical Order

Alphabetical order means to look at a list of words and then organize the list of words into ABC order.

**Directions:** Look at the first letter of each vocabulary word, then list the words in ABC order.

Blubber

Sea Mammal

Mammal

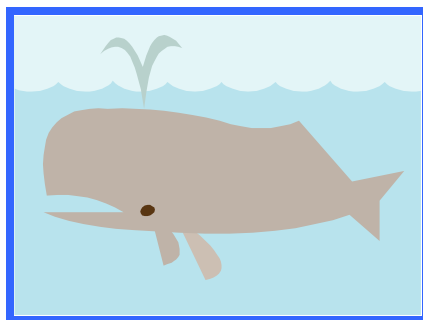
Oxygen

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_



## Activity 1.3

### Recall

Name 7 sea mammals:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

## UNIT 17 - Cows in the Sea!

What? You've never heard of a cow in the sea? When a person says "Sea cow" they are referring to the slow, calm, and peace loving manatee!

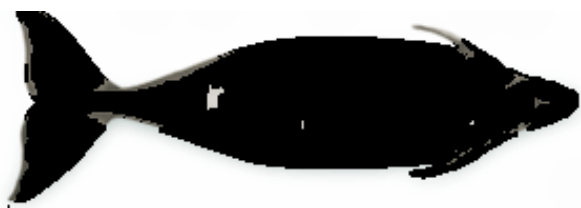


**The manatee** lives in the shallow waters of the **Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico**. They can weigh up to 1200 pounds and are about 10 feet in length. Generally speaking they swim slowly, about 3- 5 mph, but can sprint at speeds up to 20 miles per hour if necessary.

Unlike other sea mammals, they will typically eat only plants like mangrove leaves, turtle grass, and algae. They must eat a lot of it though, because they typically need about 100 pounds of food a day to survive.

There is another thing that makes the manatee stand out from other sea mammals - they like warm water. They cannot live in the cold seas of the Arctic and Antarctic. They prefer a temperature of about 60 degrees F, which is a perfect not too hot and not too cold temperature.

Another sea cow is the **Dugong**. The dugongs have a crescent shaped tail and a flared snout or mouth, while the manatee has a rounded tail and flatter shaped snout. Other than those two things they look pretty much the same.



Dugong



Manatee

## Activity 17.1

### Map It!

The light blue on the map shows where the manatee and dugong live. Label the map with the following words. Use a globe or atlas for help if you need it.

Florida

Caribbean Sea

Atlantic Ocean

United States

Mexico

Canada

Gulf of Mexico



## Activity 17.2

### "Ode to a Sea Cow"

#### Directions:

Write a simple poem about a Sea Cow. Make each line start with the letters in the word Sea Cow.

S

E

A

C

O

W

## **Activity 17.3**

### **Word Problems**

If a sea cow needs about 100 pounds of food a day, how many pounds of food a day would a family of four sea cows need for 2 days?

If a manatee weighs 1200 pounds and a dugong weighs 600 pounds, then how many more pounds does the manatee weight than the dugong?

