



EMPEROR PENGUIN
PASSAGES, COMPREHENSION & MORE



ALBATROSS
PASSAGES, COMPREHENSION & MORE



BLUE WHALE
PASSAGES, COMPREHENSION & MORE

ANTARCTIC ANIMALS

BUNDLE



ELEPHANT SEAL
PASSAGES, COMPREHENSION & MORE



LEOPARD SEAL
PASSAGES, COMPREHENSION & MORE



ORCA
PASSAGES, COMPREHENSION & MORE

Leopard Seal



Appearance

Leopard seals are marine mammals that live on the ice of the Antarctic. They are the second largest seal on the planet. There are only about 250,000 leopard seals alive. Males are called bulls, females are called cows, and the babies are called pups.

Like other types of seal, leopard seals use their hind flippers to push them through the water. However, they also have strong front flippers which help them to move and steer in the water. They usually live by themselves, but will

Leopard seals are large and muscular. Their backs are dark-gray and their stomachs light gray. Their throats are whitish or very pale-gray with black spots - this gives the leopard seal its name. Leopard seals are about 8 to 12 feet in length and weigh 440 to 1,320 pounds. Unusual for mammals, the females are slightly larger than the males. Leopard seals are fairly quiet animals, although they sometimes make grunting and growling noises.

Feeding

Leopard seals are rather awkward on land, so they usually hunt in the seas and oceans. They do not make very long dives; the longest recorded dive is 15 minutes. They eat a range of foods, including other seals, penguins, squid and fish. To do this, their front teeth, or canines, are sharp like those of other meat-eating animals, and can be up to 1 inch long. Leopard seals are the only seals which eat other seals.

Despite their large size, they also feed on tiny little animals called krill. Krill are crustaceans which look like shrimp, but many are less than 1 inch long. Krill make up about half the leopard seal's diet. To eat them, the seals' rear teeth or molars lock together in a way that allows them to filter krill from the water.

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gives birth to a single pup. This usually happens during the Antarctic summer. She protects the baby until it is able to look after itself. In the wild, leopard seals live for about 26 years.

Predators

The leopard seal is rarely preyed upon by other animals. The natural predators of leopard seals can be killer whales and sharks, but only if they are hungry and cannot find other food. Humans also hunt leopard seals.

Offspring

The female leopard seal is pregnant for about nine months - the same length of time as a human. When she is about to give birth, she digs a hole in the ice and



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Websites



Leopard Seal

**PASSAGE IN TWO FORMATS
& QR CODES**

Albatross



Albatrosses are very large sea-birds found mainly in the southern hemisphere, especially over the Southern Ocean and the Southern Atlantic Ocean. Albatrosses live a very long time. The oldest bird in the world, is a female albatross who was first caught in 1956.

Albatrosses feed mainly on squid and fish. They catch their prey by floating on the surface of the sea and grabbing them, or diving below the surface, sometimes as deep as 40 feet.

Appearance

Albatrosses have large, thick bills that are very strong and have sharp edges. The upper part, called the mandible, has a hook. Along the sides of the bill are

measure how fast they are flying. Albatrosses have strong legs and can walk well on land. They have three toes which are completely webbed to help them move about in the water. Most adult albatrosses have dark feathers on their backs and the top of their wings, but white feathers on the bottoms of the wings and their bellies. They have the largest wingspan of any bird in the world, reaching up to 12 feet.



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Appearance

Albatrosses fly into the wind and rise up, then gain speed when they descend. This allows them to fly over 600 miles a day without flapping their wings! Because their wings have developed for this gliding flight, they cannot stay in the air for long by flapping alone. If there is no wind, they have to land on the sea surface and wait for the wind to pick up again.

Offspring

Albatrosses nest in large colonies, often with the nests packed closely together. Males and females use special dances for several years to form very strong bonds

Flight

Because of their long wings, albatrosses can travel huge distances, they regularly travel around the world. Albatrosses fly into the wind and rise up, then gain speed when they descend. This allows them to fly over 600 miles a day without flapping their wings! Because their wings have developed for this gliding flight, they cannot stay in the air for long by flapping alone. If there is no wind, they have to land on the sea surface and wait for the wind to pick up again.



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When albatrosses are ready to lay eggs, they return to the colony site in which they were born. They usually lay only one egg, and because the chicks develop slowly, they do not always lay an egg every year.



Predators

Albatrosses face many dangers. In the ocean, they are attracted to bait thrown into the sea by fishermen, and then get caught in the fishing lines. On land, rats and cats attack chicks and nesting adults. In the past, humans hunted albatrosses, especially for their feathers. As a result, of the 22 species, of albatrosses, 19 have been



Websites

Albatross

**PASSAGE IN TWO FORMATS
& QR CODES**

Albatross Note Taking Sheet Name: _____

Appearance Habitat Diet & Feeding Offspring		Three Other Facts

Note Taking Sheet Name: _____

What makes the albatross unique?

Describe an albatross's habitat

Write three facts about the albatross:

Fact	Fact	Fact
------	------	------

Describe how albatross have babies and raise their offspring:

Albatross Cloze Read Name: _____

Use the word bank to fill in the sentences.

prey	travel	measure	without
cannot	wingspan	dangers	sea-birds

Albatrosses are very large _____ found mainly in the southern _____ Atlantic Ocean. Albatrosses feed _____ the surface.

Directions: Cut apart the labels and each fact. Sort the fact into the best category or do an open sort and create your own categories.

Attributes Actions Environment

What I Remember About the Albatross

1. What does an albatross look like?

2. Describe an albatross's habitat.

**NOTE TAKING SHEETS,
COMPREHENSION
ACTIVITIES & REPORT PAGES**

Elephant Seal



Elephant seals are very large marine mammals. There are two types or species: the northern elephant seal and the southern elephant seal. Elephant seals get their name from their long noses which are a little like the trunks of elephants. Males are called bulls, females are called cows, and their babies are called pups.

Elephant seals have fur which they shed or molt once each year. When this happens, the seals feel the cold much more so they stay on land for several weeks. Elephant seals have eyes that are large, round, and black. They use these underwater to help catch their prey.

Elephant seals spend 80 percent of their time in the water and can hold their breath underwater for 100 minutes. The deepest recorded dive of an elephant seal is 7,835 feet, but they usually dive to about 1,000 to 2,000 feet. Their favorite foods are skates, rays, squid, octopuses, eels, small sharks, and large fish. The male southern elephant seal is the largest carnivorous animal in the world.

Elephant seals do not have rear legs, but have tails like all seals. The tails are used to thrust the seal forward when they swim. The seals do not use their pectoral fins, their side fins, while they are swimming, but hold these close to their sides. When they are on land, they use their tails very little. Instead, they use their pectoral fins as support and to push themselves forward. They can do this to reach speeds of up to 5 mph.

Appearance

Elephant seals are huge compared to other seals. The bulls are usually as long as 16 feet and weigh up to 6,600 pounds. The cows are much smaller; they usually measure about 10 feet long and weigh about 2,000 pounds. Northern elephant seals are a bit smaller than southern ones.

Offspring

Female elephant seals are pregnant for about 11 months. The pups are born with completely black fur. Their coats cannot protect them from the cold water, but they do insulate the pups from the cold air. To get a coat that insulates them, the pups must stay on land for several weeks.



**marine
mammal**

a mammal that depends on the ocean for food



carnivore

an animal that eats meat

VOCABULARY CARDS & MORE

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Albatross



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risk of
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prey

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predators

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