



Sea Lion

Teacher Notes

The following article is written at a second and third grade reading level. It follows a similar format to other Animal Articles and can be used for animal reports, informational reading, or text analysis. The sentence length, structure, and vocabulary have been controlled to make the text easier for young readers to understand.

The article comes in two formats: One full-page black and white article and one two-page article with colorful pictures. The articles have the same text. The only difference is the pictures.

The QR codes are for websites and videos that give additional information about the animal. If you find any links that do not work, please email me and I will fix it promptly. Videos are from a variety of websites, including YouTube. There are two pages of QR Codes. One page has the YouTube links and the other page has the SafeTube links. Make sure you can access YouTube or SafeTube at your school.

The fact sort sheets contain facts taken directly from the text. I use them to help students organize information from the text when writing about the animals. Either use the provided categories or have students do an open sort and create their own categories.

I often use these articles during our informational writing unit. You can find more about this unit in this blog post.

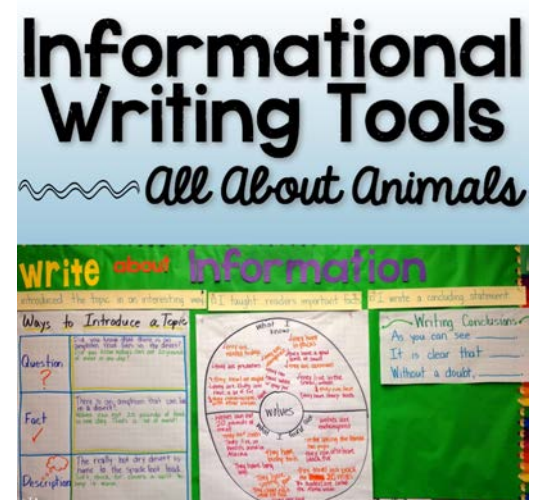




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More Animal Articles

Each animal is available individually and as part of a habitat set.



**Informational article (2 versions)
QR Code Research Page & Fact Sort**



Life Cycles
Informational article (2 versions)
QR Code Research Page & Fact Sort



[LINK TO ACCESS DIGITAL VERSION](#)

Websites

Sea Lion

Videos

Sea Lion

The California sea lion is a common sight in the Monterey Bay area. It is playful, smart, and likes to rest on beaches, rocks, and under fishing piers. Males spend their winters along the northern coasts of Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Canada. Females spend their time in the warmer waters of California and Mexico. Because it is very social, the sea lion gathers in groups of hundreds or thousands called colonies. Although it is not a seal, it is part of the "eared seal" family.

has four flippers that it can use to "walk" on land. Male sea lions can be up to 8 feet long and weigh 800 pounds, while females are usually around 6 feet long and 240 pounds.

Diet and Feeding

Like all sea lions, the California sea lion is a carnivore. It eats fish, squid, octopus, and shellfish. It hunts by diving in the ocean for about 3-5 minutes. Sometimes, it can stay underwater for almost 10 minutes. It can hunt for 30 hours straight if it takes the short 3-5 minute dives. In the water, the sea lion is quick and can swim up to 25 miles per hour.

Appearance

The California sea lion is known for its brown coat that covers its entire body. It

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Offspring

In the late spring and early summer, the California sea lion migrates to the Channel Islands in Southern California. There, a mother sea lion will give birth to a baby called a pup. She usually gives birth to only one pup a year. The mother will nurse it for a few days, then leave it on the shore while she hunts and feeds for a few days. She repeats this cycle for a year until the pup no longer needs her milk.

Predators and Threats

Great White sharks and orcas are a sea lion's natural predators. The biggest threats to the sea lion are people and climate change. People are a threat because of fishing and boating activity. The sea lion can get caught in fishing nets, and boats can injure it. People have hunted sea lions until a law made it illegal. Climate change threatens the sea lion because warmer waters reduce its food source. Often, mothers will abandon their pups if they can't find enough food. Many sea lion species are endangered or threatened. One species is even extinct. The California sea lion is the only species in the world whose population is growing.

Appearance

The California sea lion is known for its brown coat that covers its entire body. It has four flippers that it can use to "walk" on land. Male sea lions can be up to 8 feet long and weigh 800 pounds, while females are usually around 6 feet long and 240 pounds.

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Text in Two Formats & QR Codes for Internet Research

Sea Lion Vocabulary Activity

Fill in the matrix for each word.

Definition			Characteristics
Examples	migrate		Non-Examples

Definition			Characteristics
Examples	pup		Non-Examples



carnivore

an animal that
eats other
animals



social

living together
in groups and
communicating
with each
other



colony

a large group
of the same
type of animal
living closely
together



coat

migrate



a young wolf,
seal, rat, or
other mammal

Vocabulary Cards & Activities

Sea Lion Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

Picture	Word	Definition
	migrate	
	predator	an animal that hunts and eats other animals
	pup	
	endangered	seriously at risk of extinction

Sea Lion Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

Picture	Word	Definition
		living together in groups and communicating with each other
		a large group of the same type of animal living closely together

Sea Lion Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

social	colony	to move from one place to another because of changing seasons and food	an animal that eats other animals
coat	carnivore	an animal's fur	a young wolf, seal, rat, or other mammal



Fact Sort

Sort the facts into categories.

Name: _____

Attributes

looks, has, is

The California sea lion is a carnivore.

Great White sharks and orcas are a sea lion's natural predators.

In the water, the sea lion is quick and can swim up to 25 miles per hour.

Actions

does, can

It hunts by diving in the ocean for about 3-5 minutes.

It is playful, smart, and likes to rest on beaches, rocks, and under fishing piers.

Environment

where it lives

Females spend their time in the warmer waters of California and Mexico.

Males spend their winters along the northern coasts of Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Canada.

The sea lion can get caught in fishing nets, and boats can injure it.

Females are usually around 6 feet long and 240 pounds.

It can hunt for 30 hours straight if it takes the short 3-5 minute dives.

Because it is very social, the sea lion gathers in groups of hundreds or thousands called colonies.

In the late spring and early summer, the California sea lion migrates to the Channel Islands in Southern California.

It eats fish, squid, octopus, and shellfish.

Best threats to the sea lion are humans and climate change.

Male sea lions can be up to 8 feet long and weigh 800 pounds.

The mother will nurse it for a few days, then leave it on the shore while she hunts and feeds for a few days.

The California sea lion is known for its brown coat that covers its entire body.

People are a threat because of fishing and boating activity.

Sometimes, it can stay underwater for almost 10 minutes.

It has four flippers that it can use to "walk" on land.

Climate change threatens the sea lion because warmer

Mothers usually give birth to only one pup a year.

Often, mothers will abandon their pups if they can't find enough food.

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Fact Sort for Organizing Writing

Name: _____

Sea Lion Cloze Read

Use the word bank to fill in the sentences.

climate change	predators	flippers	r
colonies	carnivore	social	

The California sea lion is a common sight in the Monterey Bay or smart, and likes to rest on beaches, rocks, and under fishing piers.

_____, the sea lion gathers in groups of thousands called _____. The Californ _____ its brown coat that covers its entire body. It has four _____ that it can use to "walk" on land.

The sea lion is a _____. It _____ shellfish. It hunts by diving in the ocean for about 3-5 minutes underwater for almost 10 minutes.

In the late spring and early summer, the California _____ to the Channel Islands in Southern California. There _____ to a baby called a _____. _____ pup a year. The mother will nurse it for a few days _____ she hunts and feeds for a few days.

Great White sharks and orcas are a sea _____ The biggest threats to the sea lion are people _____ threat because of fishing and boating activities _____ made it illegal. _____ warmer waters reduce its food source.

Name: _____

Note Taking Sheet

What makes the sea lion unique?

Describe a sea lion's habitat:

Write three facts about the sea lion:

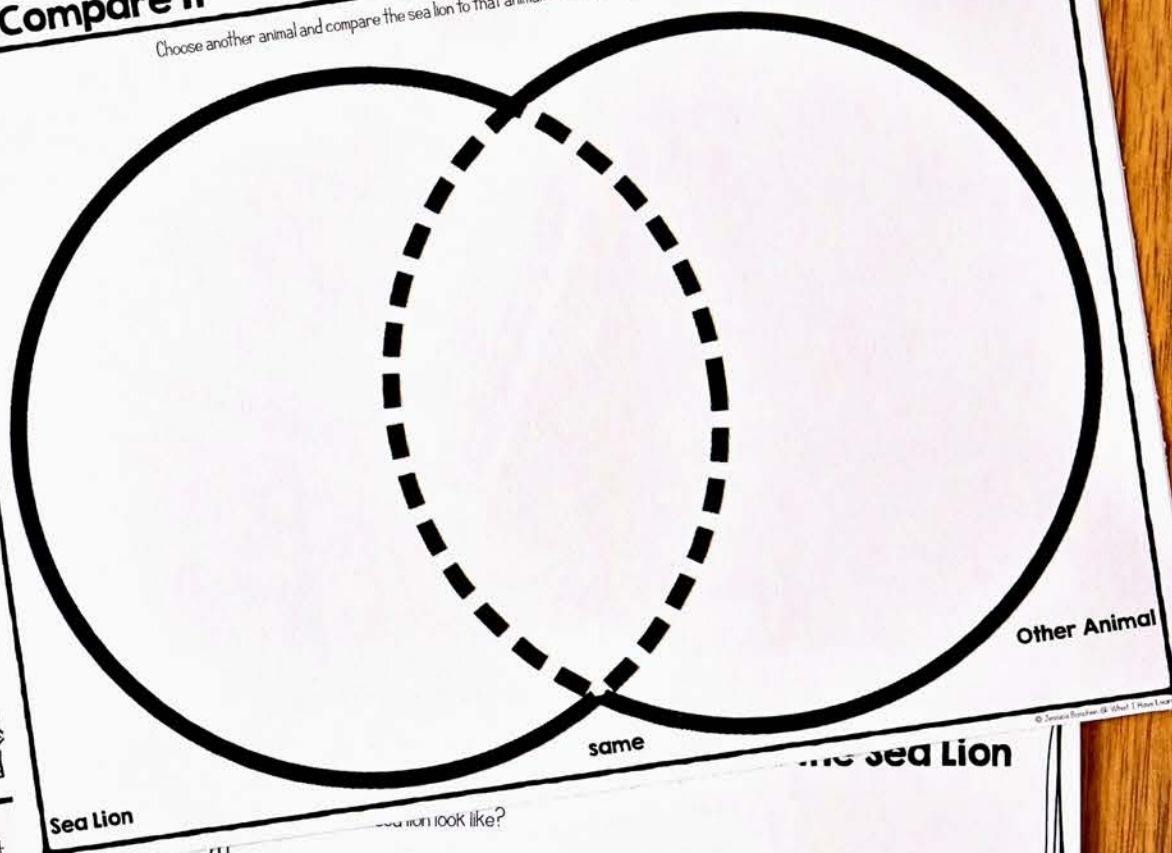
Fact	Fact	Fact
------	------	------

Describe how _____

Other Information:

Compare It

Choose another animal and compare the sea lion to that animal. How are they alike? How are they different?



Sea Lion Note Taking Sheet

Appearance

Habitat

Feeding

Offspring

I Wonder

What questions do you still have about the sea lion? Write them in the bubbles.

Habitat

Appearance

Diet & Feeding

2. Describe a sea lion's habitat.

3. What and how does a sea lion eat?

4. Describe how sea lions take care of their offspring.

Comprehension Activities

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WHAT I have
LEARNED



WORD PROBLEMS	CURRICULUM MAP TEMPLATE	ADDITION & SUBTRACTION
<p>This is perfect for teachers whose students struggle solving word problems. Have you ever thought of removing the numbers from word problems? Great for first and second grades.</p>	<p>Do you struggle with long range planning? This curriculum map template will get you started on planning for your whole year!</p>	<p>Two-digit addition and subtraction can be tricky for students. Here is a sample of resources to help them explore different models and strategies.</p>
Name: <input type="text"/> Email*: <input type="text"/> Grade (choose the best fit): <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="YES! I WANT IT!"/>	Name: <input type="text"/> Email*: <input type="text"/> What Grade Do You Teach?*: <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="YES! I WANT IT!"/>	Name: <input type="text"/> Email*: <input type="text"/> Grade (choose the best fit): <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="YES! I WANT IT!"/>

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