

LEVELED BOOK • M

# Ocean Animals

Written by Kira Freed • Illustrated by Paula Schricker

**MULTI**  
**level**  
**J•M•P**

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# Ocean Animals



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## Focus Question

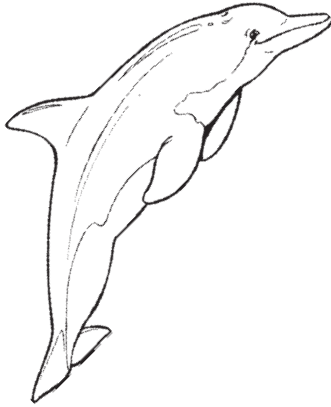
How are ocean animals the same? How are they different?



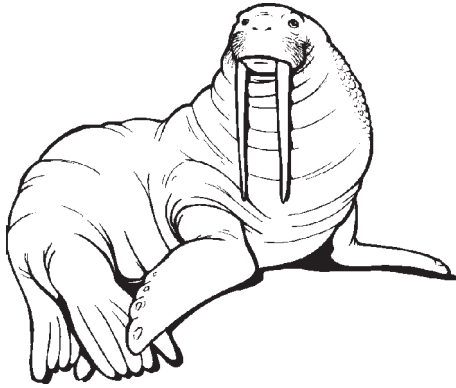
Many kinds of animals live in the ocean and form an ocean community. Some ocean animals spend all their time in the water, but others spend some time on land.



Let's meet some of these ocean animals. Most of the animals in this book are **mammals**, fish, or **reptiles**.

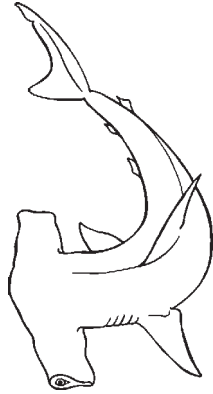


As a dolphin, my sleek body and strong tail help me swim fast. I live with other dolphins in a group called a *pod*. We whistle, click, and squeak to talk to each other. I swim to the surface a few times a minute to breathe. My brain is large, so people think I'm pretty smart. I like to eat fish.

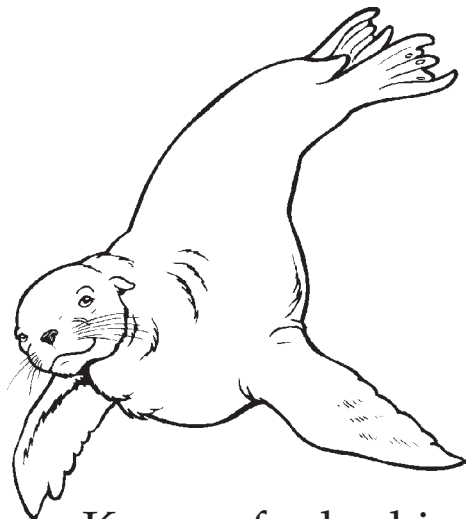


Like all walruses, I live on ice and in cold water. A thick layer of fat keeps me warm. My ivory tusks are long teeth that I use to dig for clams, protect myself, and move around. My flat flippers allow me to swim and move around on land. I make loud snorts and barks to talk to other walruses.



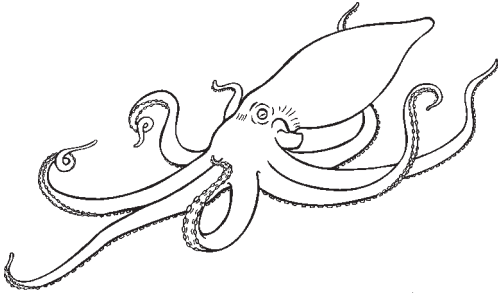


I am a hammerhead shark. The shape of my head gives me my name. Because my eyes are at the ends of two **lobes**, I can easily find **prey**. I use my large head to pin stingrays, my favorite food, to the ocean floor. During the day, I travel with other sharks, but I hunt alone at night.

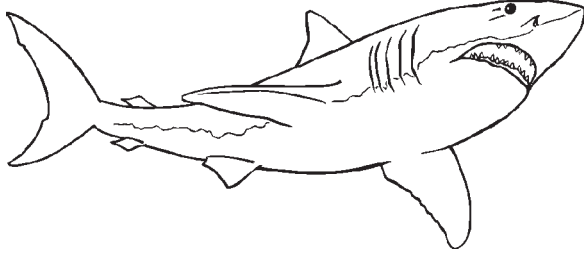


Known for barking like a dog, I am a California sea lion. People think I'm noisy and playful, but I'm also smart. My flippers and short fur help me swim fast. I can stay underwater for ten minutes. I live with other sea lions on rocky coasts. I eat squid, octopus, and fish.



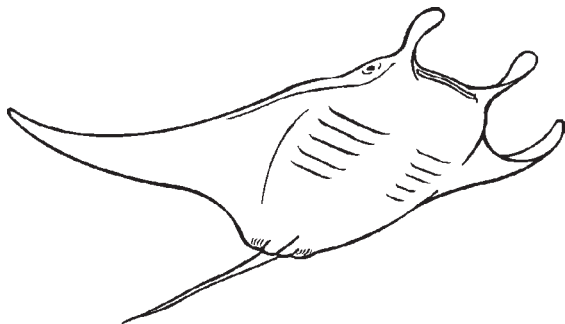


I have a soft body and eight arms covered with suckers. I'm an octopus. I don't have a skeleton, so I can fit into very small spaces. If I lose an arm, it will grow back. By shooting black ink and changing my skin color, I can hide in the ocean.



I'm a great white shark, and I'm large and fierce. No other ocean animal hunts me. If I lose or break any of my three thousand sharp teeth, they'll grow back. I hunt seals, dolphin, and fish. I can sense blood in water from far away.

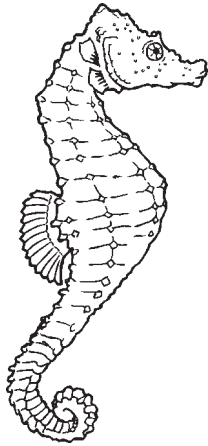


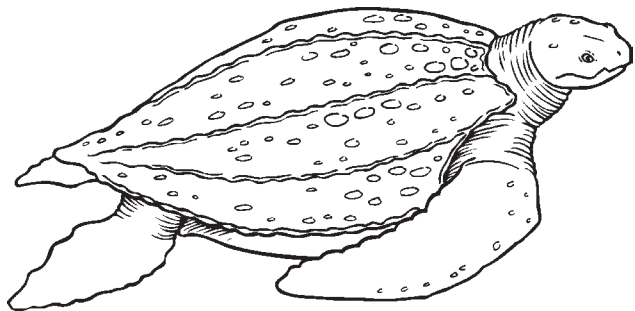


Because my brain is bigger than any other fish's brain, I'm smart—like all manta rays. My body is huge, flat, and wide. My fins look like wings. Although I'm related to stingrays, I don't sting.



I'm a sea horse,  
but I'm not a  
horse—I'm a  
fish! I use my  
snout to eat  
food such as  
shrimp. If I sense  
trouble, I change my color  
and shape. Male sea horses,  
not females, carry eggs in a  
pouch until they hatch.





I have leathery skin instead of a shell, unlike other turtles. I'm a leatherback turtle—the biggest turtle in the world. I lay eggs on land by digging in the sand to make a nest. Diving deep in the ocean, I can stay underwater for longer than one hour. Jellyfish are my favorite food.





I'm a blue whale, the largest mammal ever to live.  
My huge tongue weighs as much as an elephant!  
I make deep sounds that move through water. I  
eat small animals called *krill* by swallowing large  
amounts of water. I push the water out through  
brushlike teeth called *baleen*. The baleen traps my  
food inside my mouth.





All these animals live in the ocean. **Pollution** and hunting harm them, causing many to become **endangered**. By keeping our oceans clean, we can keep these animals alive.

## Glossary

<b>endangered</b> ( <i>adj.</i> )	in danger of dying out completely (p. 15)
<b>lobes</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	rounded or curved sections of bodies or organs (p. 7)
<b>mammals</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	warm-blooded animals with hair or fur (p. 4)
<b>pollution</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	the act or result of putting harmful materials into the air, water, or soil (p. 15)
<b>prey</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	animals that are hunted and eaten (p. 7)
<b>reptiles</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	cold-blooded animals that are covered with scales or horny plates (p. 4)

## Words to Know

endangered

pollution

lobes

prey

mammals

reptiles

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### Correlation

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DRA	24

# Ocean Animals

*A Reading A-Z Level M Leveled Book • Word Count: 599*

## Connections

### Writing and Art

Create a poster about one animal from the book. Include a picture and interesting facts. Share the poster with your class.

### Science

Use the information from the book to write clues describing an animal. Read your clues to a partner and have them guess the animal.



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