

LEVELED BOOK • P

Ocean Animals

Written by Kira Freed • Illustrated by Paula Schricker

MULTI
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J•M•P

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Focus Question

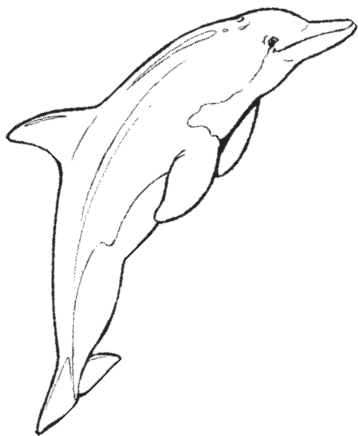
How are ocean animals the same? How are they different?



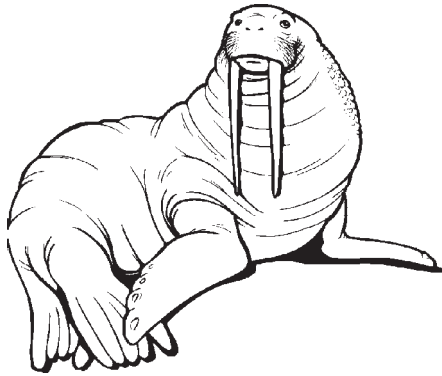
The many kinds of animals living in the ocean form an ocean community. While some ocean animals spend all their time in the water, others spend some of their time on land.



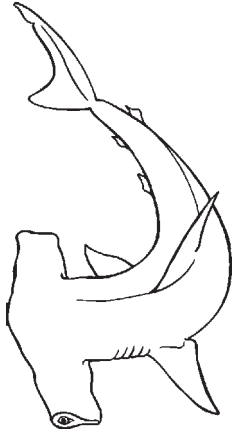
Let's meet some of these ocean animals. Most of the animals in this book are **mammals**, fish, or **reptiles**.



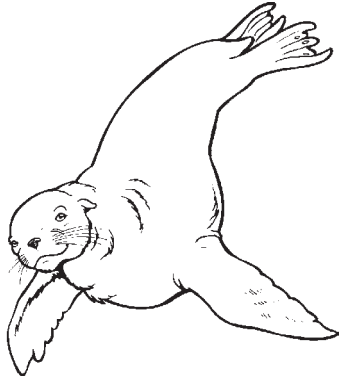
As a dolphin, my sleek body and strong tail help me swim fast. I live with other dolphins in a group called a *pod*. We whistle, click, and squeak to talk to each other. I have to swim to the surface a few times a minute to breathe. Because I have a large brain for my body size, people consider me among the smartest animals in the ocean. I like to eat fish.



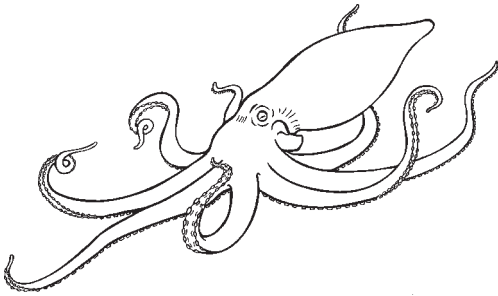
Like all walruses, I live on ice and in cold water. A thick layer of fat keeps me warm. My ivory tusks are actually very long teeth that I use to dig for clams, move around, and protect myself. Whiskers around my mouth help me sense food on the dark ocean floor. Flat flippers allow me to swim as well as to flop around on land. I make loud snorts and barks to communicate with other walruses.



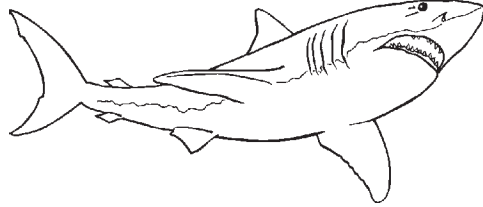
The shape of my head gives me my name: hammerhead shark. The placement of my eyes at the ends of two **lobes** allows me to easily scan the ocean for **prey**. I like to use my large head to pin stingrays, my favorite food, to the ocean floor. While I travel with other hammerhead sharks in large schools during the day, I prefer to hunt alone at night.



Known for barking like a dog, I am a California sea lion. Although people consider me noisy and playful, I am also smart. My short fur and leathery flippers help me swim very fast. I live with other sea lions in colonies on rocky coastlines. We spend our time lounging on rocks in the sun or diving into the water to catch fish, octopus, and squid. I can swim underwater for as long as ten minutes.

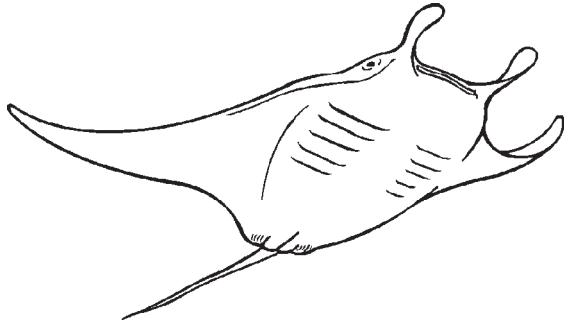


With a soft body and eight arms covered with suckers, I am an octopus. Because I don't have a skeleton, I can fit into very small spaces. If I lose an arm, it regrows later. Shooting black ink and changing the color of my skin help me hide from both **predators** and prey.



I am a great white shark, a large and fierce predator. No other ocean animal hunts me. If I lose or break any of my almost three thousand sharp teeth, they will grow back. As a skilled hunter, I can sense a tiny amount of blood in the water, even from a long distance. I eat seals, dolphins, and fish. I am named for my white underbelly. But my back is gray, so I **blend** into the dark ocean and can easily surprise prey.

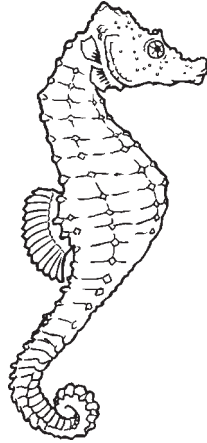




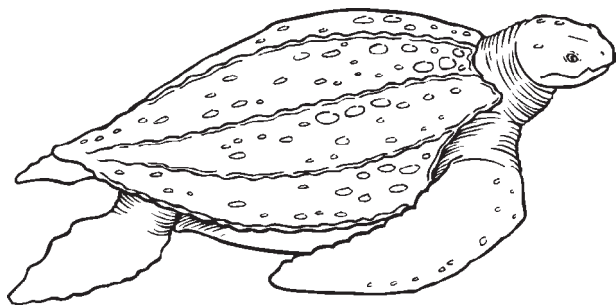
Because my brain is bigger than any other fish's brain, I am smart—like all manta rays. As the largest ray in the world, my body is huge, flat, and wide, with fins that look like wings. Although I am related to stingrays, I do not sting. People like to watch me jump out of the water and make a big splash.



As a sea horse, my name confuses people because I'm not a horse—I'm a fish! I have no teeth or stomach, but I still like to eat all the time, especially shrimp. Instead of chewing, I swallow my food through my snout.

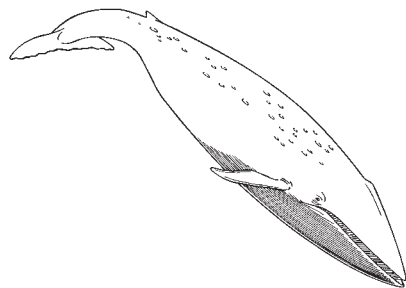


With only a small back fin, I am the slowest fish. I can stay in one place by **latching** my tail onto a piece of coral or seagrass. If trouble comes my way, I change my color and shape. Male sea horses, not females, carry eggs inside a pouch until they hatch.



I am the biggest turtle in the world—a leatherback turtle. Unlike most turtles, which have shells, my body is covered with leathery skin. I lay between eighty and one hundred eggs on land by digging a nest in the beach sand. Diving deep in the ocean and staying underwater for longer than an hour at a time, I travel long distances. Jellyfish are my favorite food.





I am a blue whale, the largest mammal ever to live. My huge tongue weighs as much as an elephant! I talk to other blue whales by making deep sounds that move through water for long distances. Instead of teeth, I have baleen. After gulping large amounts of water, my tongue pushes the water out. Baleen traps my favorite food—tiny animals called *krill*—inside my mouth.



Pollution and hunting are harmful to all these ocean animals, causing many to become **endangered**. By keeping our oceans clean, we can all work together to keep these animals alive.

Glossary

blend (<i>v.</i>)	to not be noticed because of likeness in appearance (p. 10)
endangered (<i>adj.</i>)	in danger of dying out completely (p. 15)
latching (<i>v.</i>)	fastening or attaching to another object (p. 12)
lobes (<i>n.</i>)	rounded or curved sections of bodies or organs (p. 7)
mammals (<i>n.</i>)	warm-blooded animals that have hair or fur (p. 4)
pollution (<i>n.</i>)	the act or result of putting harmful materials into the air, water, or soil (p. 15)
predators (<i>n.</i>)	animals that hunt and eat other animals to survive (p. 9)
prey (<i>n.</i>)	animals that are hunted and eaten by predators (p. 7)
reptiles (<i>n.</i>)	cold-blooded animals that are covered with scales or horny plates (p. 4)

Words to Know

blend	pollution
endangered	predators
latching	prey
lobes	reptiles
mammals	

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Correlation

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Reading Recovery	28
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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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