

Who am I?

Objective

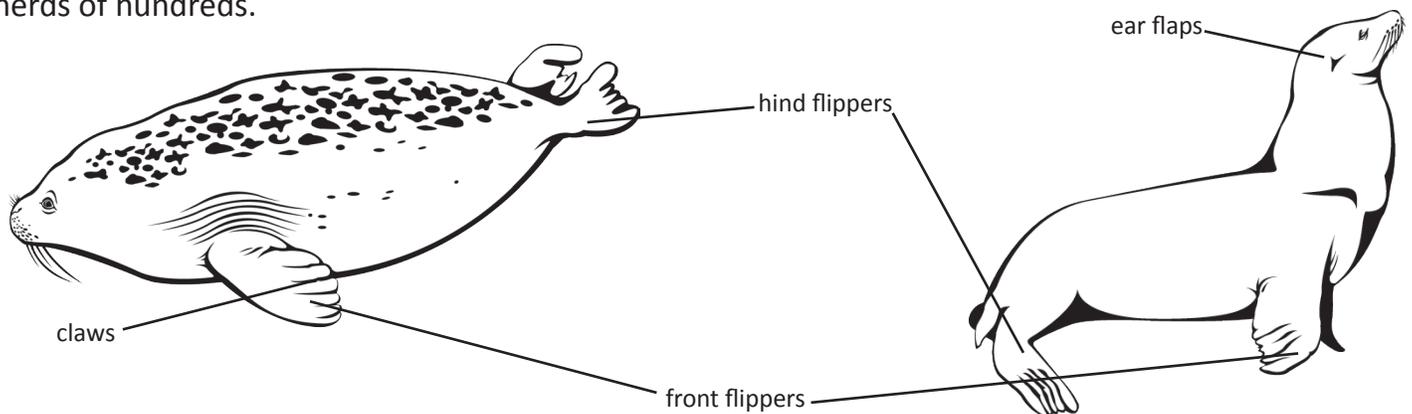
Students will compare and contrast seals and sea lions.

Materials

- copies of *Who am I?* worksheet per student
- crayons
- pictures of seals and sea lions (optional)

Background

Seals, sea lions, and walrus belong to the scientific order Pinnipedia. These animals have four flippers — broad flat limbs supported by bones. Sea lions are called “eared seals” because they have external ear flaps on the sides of their heads. Sea lions have large front flippers which they use to swim and can rotate the hind flippers forward to “walk” on land. Seals do not have ear flaps, only tiny openings to their ears. They have short, clawed front flippers and cannot rotate their hind flippers. They swim using their hind flippers. Sea lions tend to live in large groups and interact with each other. They are also very vocal. Seals are less social and have quieter vocalizations. Walrus have no ear flaps but can rotate the hind flippers to “walk” on land. They are highly social and live in herds of hundreds.



Action

1. Ask students if they can describe a sea lion. What does it look like? Where does it live? How does it swim? How does it move on land? Ask students the same questions about a seal and a walrus.
2. Draw an outline of a seal and a sea lion on the board. Pattern the outlines using the illustrations on the *Who am I?* worksheet.
3. Ask students to describe some differences they see between these two animals. Make sure to emphasize the differences described on the worksheet.
4. Distribute *Who am I?* worksheets and crayons to each student. Ask students to write the name of the animal below each picture. Have students draw the missing body parts. Color the animals when finished.

Deeper depths: Show students pictures of various seal and sea lion species. See if students can correctly identify each as a seal or a sea lion.

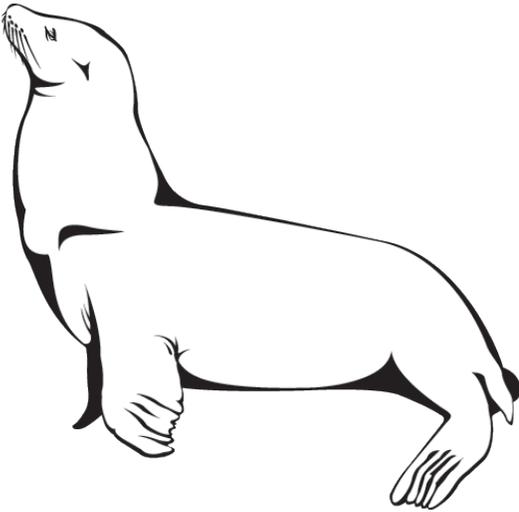
For older students: Make a chart comparing seals, sea lions, and walrus.

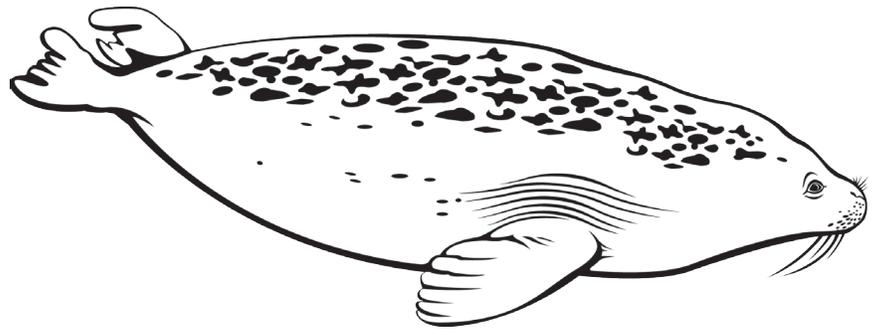
Who am I?

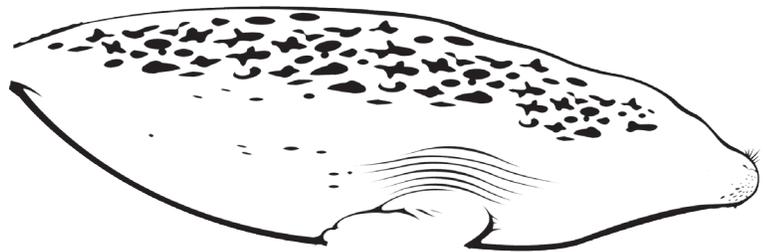
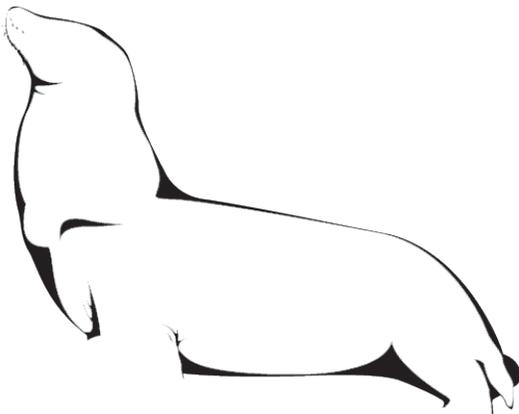


Name _____

Can you tell which animal is a seal and which is a sea lion? Write the names on the lines below the drawing. Then, help their friends by drawing flippers, ears, eyes, and whiskers.







Write the name of the third member of the Pinniped family. (Hint: it lives in the Arctic and has tusks):

Circle the animal that makes louder vocalizations:

seal

sea lion

Circle the animals that can "walk" on their flippers:

walrus

seal

sea lion