

# THE HUNGRIEST MOUTH IN THE SEA

BY PETER WALTERS



# THE HUNGRIEST MOUTH IN THE SEA

Who is the hungriest creature in the South Sea? The krill may swarm and the blue cod may be hunting for dinner, but neither is fierce enough to be at the top of this habitat's food web. It's a fishy tale of who eats whom. Predators become prey but ultimately only one animal comes out on top. Dive into the rhythmic text and find out who it could be.

Animals in the book include: Antarctic krill, barracuda, cod, great white shark, Hector's dolphin, long-tail ray, moon jelly, New Zealand fur seal, orca, petrel, plankton, seahorse, sperm whale, squid, swordfish, and yellow-eyed penguin.

It's so much more than a picture book . . . this book is specifically designed to be both a fun-to-read story and a launch pad for discussions and learning. We encourage adults to do the activities with the young children in their lives both at home and in the classroom. Free online resources and support at [www.ArbordalePublishing.com](http://www.ArbordalePublishing.com) include:

- For Creative Minds as seen in the book (in English & Spanish):
  - Marine Mammals
  - Predator and Prey Matching
  - Food Web Cards
  - Hungriest Mouth Games
- Teaching Activities (to do at home or school):
  - Language Arts
  - Math
  - Science
  - Geography
- Interactive Quizzes: Reading Comprehension, For Creative Minds, and Math Word Problems
- English and Spanish Audiobooks
- Related Websites
- Aligned to State, Common Core & NGSS Standards
- Accelerated Reader and Reading Counts! Quizzes
- Lexile and Fountas & Pinnell Reading Levels

eBooks with Auto-Flip, Auto-Read, and selectable English and Spanish text and audio are available for purchase online.

Thanks to Jack Cover and Kate Rowe, General Curator and Media Relations Manager at the National Aquarium, for reviewing the accuracy of the information in this book.



After studying art in England and volunteering at a Montessori school, author **Peter Walters** traveled the world working in childcare and education. While he worked in Ghana, he helped children create their own books, but it was time spent in New Zealand that inspired Peter to write and illustrate his first picture book: *The Hungriest Mouth in the Sea*. Today, Peter draws inspiration from the rugged coast of Cornwall, England where he explores the green hills and barren moors with his family and labrador, Tui. Visit his website at [www.peterwalters.net](http://www.peterwalters.net).



Peter Walters

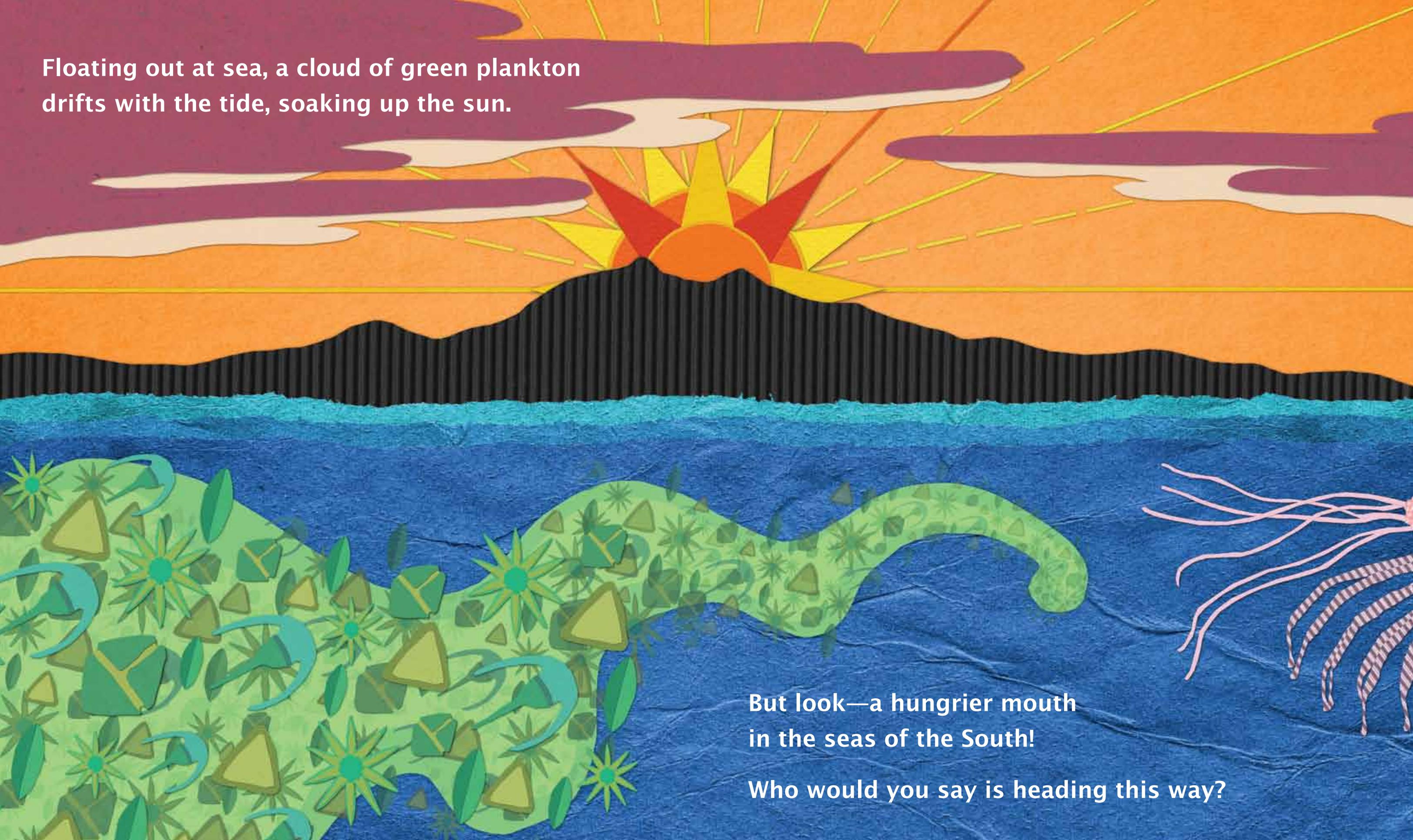
# THE HUNGRIEST MOUTH IN THE SEA



**BY PETER WALTERS**



Floating out at sea, a cloud of green plankton drifts with the tide, soaking up the sun.



But look—a hungrier mouth  
in the seas of the South!

Who would you say is heading this way?

Perhaps it's a seahorse with a pot-belly,  
or the trailing tentacles of a moon jelly?



No, no, no, it's nothing like that.  
It's someone else in this habitat.  
But who can it be?

A large pink Antarctic krill is shown in the foreground, swimming towards the left. It has long, thin antennae and a segmented body. Behind it, a large swarm of smaller, similar krill is moving in the same direction, creating a sense of a coordinated group. The background is a deep blue, textured surface representing the ocean. In the bottom right corner, a portion of a grey, star-shaped object is visible.

**It's a pink Antarctic krill hunting in the sea!**

**Rising from the deep, a swarm of kicking krill  
moves as one with unquestionable skill.**

**But look—a hungrier mouth  
in the seas of the South!**

**Who would you say is heading this way?**

# For Creative Minds

This For Creative Minds educational section contains activities to engage children in learning while making it fun at the same time. The activities build on the underlying subjects introduced in the story. While older children may be able to do these activities on their own, we encourage adults to work with the young children in their lives. Even if the adults have long forgotten or never learned this information, they can still work through the activities and be experts in their children's eyes! Exposure to these concepts at a young age helps to build a strong foundation for easier comprehension later in life. This section may be photocopied or printed from our website by the owner of this book for educational, non-commercial uses. Cross-curricular teaching activities for use at home or in the classroom, interactive quizzes, and more are available online. Go to [www.ArbordalePublishing.com](http://www.ArbordalePublishing.com) and click on the book's cover to explore all the links.

## Marine Mammals

A **mammal** is any animal that has a backbone, is warm-blooded, breathes air, has hair, and produces milk for its young. A **marine mammal** is a mammal that spend most or all of its life in the ocean. Marine mammals live all around the world. The maps below show the range in yellow for each of the four marine mammals in this book.



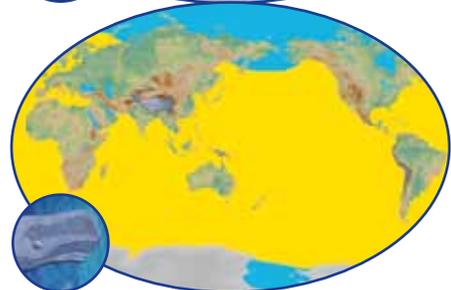
New Zealand fur seals are also called kekeno. They are an **endangered species**. This means that if people don't help them, they might disappear forever (**extinct**). Kekenos weigh up to 330 pounds (150 kg).

*How much do you weigh? How much heavier or lighter is a kekeno than you are?*



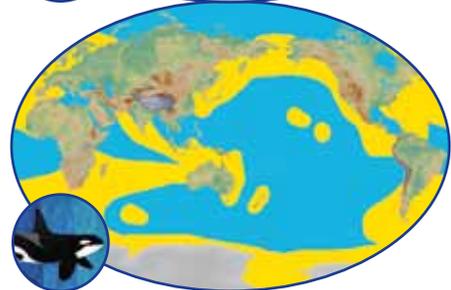
Hector's dolphins are also endangered. There are only 7,000 left in the world. Hector's dolphins are the smallest type of dolphin in the world. They grow to only 5 feet, 3 inches (1.6 m) long.

*How tall are you? Is a Hector's dolphin longer or shorter than you are tall? By how much?*



Sperm whales grow up to 60 feet (18 m) long—bigger than a school bus! When searching for food deep underwater, sperm whales can hold their breath for 90 minutes.

*How long can you hold your breath? How much longer can a sperm whale hold its breath than you can hold yours?*

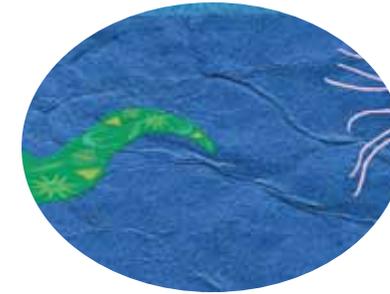


Orcas, also known as killer whales, live in groups called **pods**. A single pod can have up to 40 whales. Orcas use teamwork to hunt with their pods and take down large prey. Adult orcas eat 375 pounds (170 kg) of food each day.

*Humans eat an average of 5 pounds (2.25 kg) of food per day. How many days would it take for a person to eat as much as an orca does in one day?*

## Predator and Prey Matching

A **predator** is an animal that hunts other animals for food. Animals eaten by predators are called **prey**. Many animals are both predator and prey. Match each prey on the top of the page to its hungry predator on the bottom. Answers are below.



1. phytoplankton



2. yellow-eyed penguin



3. blue cod



4. Antarctic krill



5. New Zealand fur seal



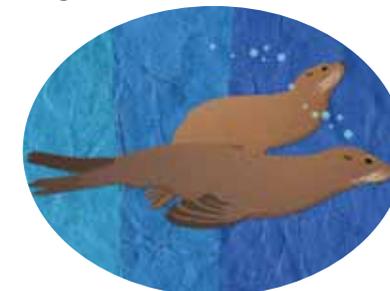
A. yellow-eyed penguin



B. blue cod



C. Antarctic krill



D. brown fur seal



E. orca

Answers: 1-C. 2-D. 3-A. 4-B. 5-E.

## Food Web Cards

Copy or download this page and cut out the food web cards. Using the information in the book and on the card, stack each “predator” card on top of its “prey” card (predators eat the prey). How many cards can you get in one pile?

An animal with no natural predators is called an **apex predator**. Is there an apex predator here that is always at the top of your pile or on top of the food web?



### Sun

Provides energy for phytoplankton and other plants to grow (bottom card)



### Phytoplankton

Prey: gets its energy from the sun  
Predators: krill



### Krill

Prey: phytoplankton  
Predators: jellyfish, seabird, small fish, squid, stingray



### Jellyfish

Prey: krill  
Predators: large fish, small fish, seabird



### Stingray

Prey: krill  
Predators: shark



### Small Fish

Prey: krill, squid, jellyfish  
Predators: large fish, penguin, seabird, seal, shark, squid



### Seabird

Prey: jellyfish, krill, small fish, squid  
Predators: orca, shark



### Squid

Prey: krill, small fish  
Predators: orca, large fish, penguin, seabird, seal, small fish



### Penguin

Prey: small fish, squid  
Predators: orca, seal, shark



### Large Fish

Prey: jellyfish, small fish, squid  
Predators: orca, seal, shark



### Seal

Prey: large fish, penguins, small fish, squid  
Predators: orca, shark



### Shark

Prey: large fish, penguin, seabird, seal, small fish, stingray  
Predators: orca



### Orca

Prey: large fish, penguin, seabird, seal, shark, squid  
Predators: none

## Hungriest Mouth Games

Copy and cut out the food web cards.

**Card game:** If you have 2-3 players, use one set of cards. For 4-6 players, use two sets. Shuffle all the cards together and deal 4 cards to each player. Place extra cards in a draw pile. On your turn, say to one other player, “My (predator) eats your (prey).” If they have that prey, they give it to you and you add the card to your hand, then it is the next player’s turn. If the person does not have the card you asked for, they take one card from the draw pile. The player with the most cards in their hand wins.

**Conga line:** For large groups, print out enough sets to give everyone a card. Attach your card to your shirt or wear it as a necklace with some yarn. Find your prey and “eat” them. When you eat someone, they stand behind you and hold onto your shoulders. The more people you eat, the longer your line becomes. If someone eats you, then you and everyone in your line must join their line. The winner is the predator with the longest line.



For Eliot—PW

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