

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 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?



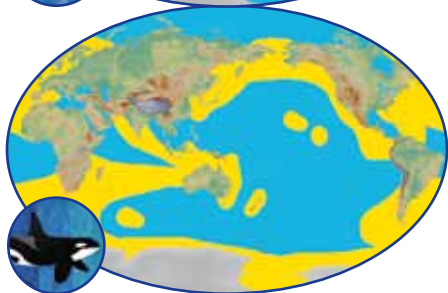
Hector's dolphins are also endangered. There are only 7,000 left in the world. Hector's dolphins are the smallest type of dolphin in the world. They grow to only 5 feet, 3 inches (1.6 m) long.

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?

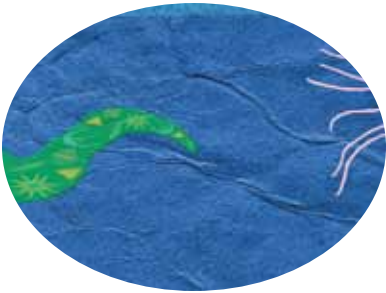


Orcas, also known as killer whales, live in groups called **pods**. A single pod can have up to 40 whales. Orcas use teamwork to hunt with their pods and take down large prey. Adult orcas eat 375 pounds (170 kg) of food each day.

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.