

ALL ABOUT SEALS

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Dedicated to marine researchers.

This book belongs to:

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This book is all about seals.



The scientific name for a seal is a
PINNIPED.



Seals are a wide spread and diverse group of fin-footed, semiaquatic, marine mammals. Seals belong to the order Carnivora. Their closest living relatives are bears, otters, weasels, and raccoons.

There are three types of seal families:

- Odobenidae: whose only living (extant) member is the walrus;
- Otariidae: the eared seals (sea lions and fur seals); and
- Phocidae: the earless, or true seals.



The smallest seal is the **Baikal seal** at around 1 metre (3ft 3in) long and 45 kilograms (100lbs).



The biggest is the **southern elephant seal**, at over 5 m (16ft) and 3 ton (6,600lb), making it also the largest carnivoran.



Seals spend most of their lives in the water, but come ashore to mate, give birth, or escape from predators, like sharks and killer whales.



Seals have streamlined bodies and four limbs in the form of flippers, that act as paddles in the water. They are not as fast in the water as dolphins, but much more flexible and agile.



Fur seals and sea lions use their front limbs primarily to propel themselves through the water.



Earless seals and walruses use their hind limbs to move through water.

Fur seals, sea lions, and walruses have hind limbs that can be pulled under the body and used as legs on land.



Travel for earless or true seals is more cumbersome on land, as they waddle along on their sea adapted flippers.





Sea lions and fur seals (otariids) have visible external ears, while earless or true seals (phocids) and walruses lack these.



Seals have well-developed senses—their eyesight and hearing are adapted for both air and water, and they have an advanced tactile system in their vibrissae (whiskers).





Some types of seal are well adapted for diving to great depths, they have a layer of fat (blubber) under the skin to keep them warm. All species, except walruses, are covered in fur.



Although seal species can be found all around the world, most prefer colder waters, in the higher latitudes or polar currents .



Seals feed largely on fish and other small marine animals. A few, like the leopard seal, feed on larger animals such as penguins and other seals. Walruses are specialized for feeding on bottom-dwelling sea life.





Seal pups are typically born in the spring and summer months, females bear almost all the responsibility for raising them. Mothers of some species stay on land, fasting, so as to nurse their young for short periods, while others take foraging trips to sea between nursing bouts. Walruses are known to nurse their young while at sea.



Seals produce a number of sounds or vocalizations, like the loud barks of California sea lions, the gong-like calls of walruses, and the beautiful and complex songs of Weddell seals.

The meat, blubber and fur coats of seals have traditionally been used by indigenous peoples of the Arctic.



Seals are now protected from hunting by international law.

Besides hunting, seals also face threats from accidental trapping, marine pollution, and conflicts with local people.

The Japanese sea lion and the Caribbean monk seal have become extinct in the past century, while the Mediterranean monk seal and Hawaiian monk seal are ranked 'Critically Endangered' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



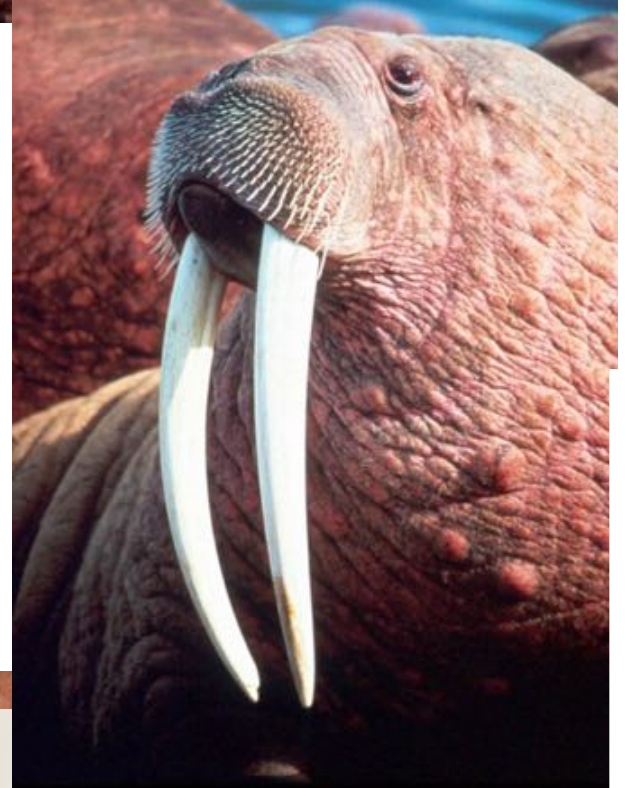


Seals have been endeared in various cultures worldwide. They are commonly kept in captivity and are may be trained to perform tricks and tasks.





We hope
you
enjoyed
all the
seals!



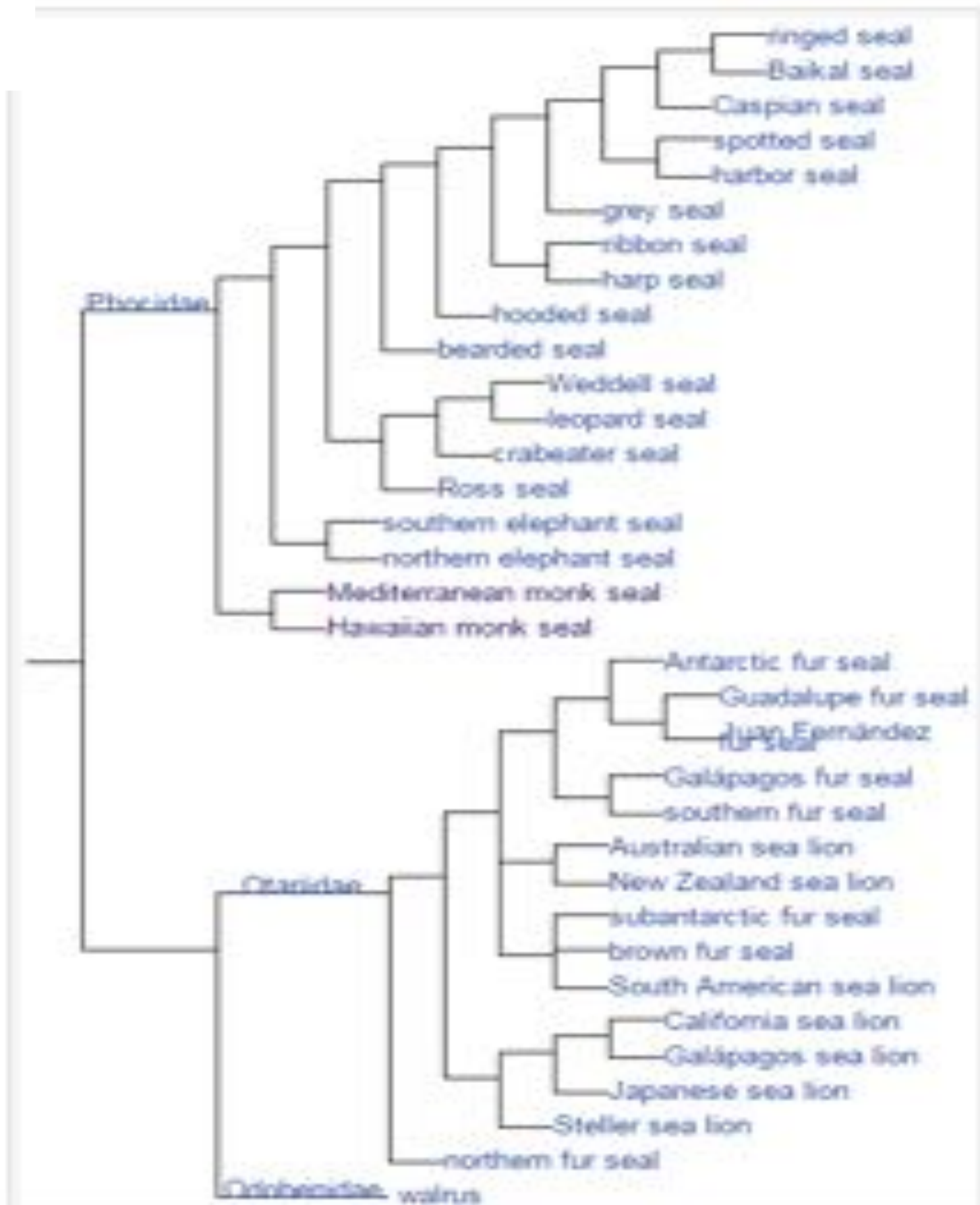
THE END

Disclaimer

This story is entirely *non-fictional*,
resemblance to real people,
animals, cows, bugs, seals, or fish,
will occur.

No seals or people were harmed in the making of this
book, however, a few fish may have been harmed by
the seals.

Seal Classifications (Wikipedia)



Cladogram showing relationships among the pinnipeds, combining several phylogenetic analyses. [2]

Glossary

Carnivora/ Carnivoran	A family of mammals primarily meat eating. Although sometimes commonly called carnivores, this is misleading.
carnivore	Meat eating organism, organism that primarily exists on meat.
extant	Living species (opposite to extinct).
extinct	A species that no longer has living members.
odobenidae	Walrus.
otariids	Fur seals and sea lions.
phocids	Earless or true seals.
ton	1000 kilograms
vibrissae	Whiskers found on most mammals, characterised by their large size, and specialised for tactile sensing

Seal Facts at a Glance

Size	Largest recorded seal: 7m, 5 ton, male southern elephant seal, average size around 5m, 3 ton; Smallest adult seal: approx 1m, 45kg, Baikal seal
Order, Class	Mammalia, Carnivora
Diet	Mainly fish, marine invertebrates, and molluscs, some are known to eat small vertebrates such as penguins and other seals.
Predators	Killer whales, sharks, man
Habitat	Mostly in water, coming on land only to breed, rest, and escape from predators. Seals can sleep in water, but not fully, one part of their brain remains awake for survival.

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About the making of this book

This book was a project between myself, Danielle (Mama), and my daughter, Zehnya, age 6.

Danielle: Zehnya's new favourite toy is a big seal called Elemeno, I suggested we make a book on seals, and she agreed. I opened Wikicommons, and searched for public domain photos of seals.

Zehnya: I picked the seal photos out for the book, they were very cute. We saved them all in a file.

Danielle: I found some information about seals from wikipedia, and used this as a base for the text in the book. I opened an open office drawing template that I use for picture books and changed the title and names.

Zehnya: I put the pictures in the book using the mouse, "Insert, Picture, From File, and then clicked on the pictures I wanted for each page. I copied the text Mama had chosen into text boxes on the pages beside each picture using copy/paste commands.

Danielle/Zehnya: We read the book together to decide what was good and what needed to be changed.

Danielle: I edited the book together to make the text and images read well, added the image list, and additional information at the end.

Danielle/Zehnya: Finally we read through the book again to check the content.

Danielle: I did another final editorial check, then I created a pdf file from the book we'd made, and uploaded it to <http://www.freekidsbooks.org>.

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About the Publisher

Danielle Bruckert

Danielle is a New Zealander living abroad, who now calls Africa home. Her chosen career is as a professional pilot, she has worked in a variety of aviation capacities from instruction to airline flying, and is the author of several aviation text books.

Danielle started writing children's books as a creative outlet from the stress of her 'day job'. She loves writing picture books, as she finds it is the most imaginative and inspiring reading age, and finds it fun and rewarding to write creative stories to match her children's learning curve.

Because of her passion for children's literature, and the role it plays in literacy standards, all of Danielle's books are available free in ebook versions. This also led Danielle to create the website 'Free Kids Books' to share good quality free children's books with others, contributing to improved literacy standards world wide.

Zehnya is 6 years old and is in Grade 2 at an international school in the UAE. She has a big toy seal called Elemenio.

To contact the author write to danielle@redskyventures.org

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