

Marine Mammals Worksheet

Directions: Fill in the table with the descriptions of each family and list any species that we is listed in the reading or we talked about in class.

Classification	Describe the characteristics	Example Species
Order: Cetacea		
Order: Carnivora		
Order: Sirenia		
Family: Delphinidae		
Family: Balaeopteridae		
Family: Physteridae		
Family: Oteriidae		
Family: Phocidae		
Family: Odobenidae		
Family: Mustelidae		
Family: Ursidae		

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1. Mothers feed their young with milk, a secretion produced by special glands in the female called _____?
2. What do sea otters use to insulate their bodies from the cold?
3. The term _____ means "fin footed" and is the name applied to the group of marine mammals that include seal, elephant seals, sea lions and walruses.
4. What is 1 main reason that Polar Bears are considered to be marine mammals?
5. What are 2 primary differences between manatees and dugongs?
6. What are 3 differences between true seals and sea lions?
7. What are 3 differences between cetaceans and pinnipeds?
8. What is the largest species of pinniped?
9. What constitutes the main diet of manatees?
10. What does the diet of a California sea lion consist of?
11. What does the diet of a walrus consist of?
12. What does the diet of all sirenians consist of?
13. What does the diet of a sea otter consist of?
14. Where can you find *Orcinus orca* species?
15. Where can you find dugongs?

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Scientific name examples

- Sperm whale: *Physeter macrocephalus*. *Physeter* = spouter; *macro* = large; *cephalus* = head. The name literally means “big-headed spouter.”
- Northern right whale: *Eubalaena glacialis*. *Eu* = true; *baleaena* = baleen or whales; *glacialis* = icy. The name means “true whale that lives in icy waters.”

Below are three whales and their scientific names. Analyze the scientific names. Use the list of Latin roots to figure out the meaning of both the genus and the species names. Write what the name means in the blank next to the scientific name. Use the example above as a guide.

1. Bowhead whale: *Balaena mysticetus* _____
2. Humpback whale: *Megaptera novaeangliae* _____
3. Blue whale: *Balaenoptera musculus* _____

Discovery of a new species:

From the description below, place this new species of whale into one of the whale families and explain why you selected that family. Make up a genus and species name for the whale using the list of Latin roots given below. There will be several choices that may be used to describe this whale.

*The following is **NOT** a true story. It is an exercise to illustrate how animals are categorized.*

Description: A new whale has just been discovered! Scientists have gathered information about this whale, but it has not been classified or named as yet. It was discovered in the far northern waters in the icy Bering Sea off of Alaska. The description they have gathered is as follows.

- A. Very large, muscular whale—as large as a blue whale (specimen found was 100 feet long)
- B. Black in color with long, white flippers
- C. Lives near the ice floes in the Bering Sea
- D. Has a high, arched mouth
- E. Very large head, making up 1/3 of its body
- F. Has extremely long baleen, up to 14 feet long
- G. Its flukes have unusually long, sharp points
- H. No throat grooves
- I. Its back dorsal fin is 1/2 meter tall

1. Which family would you classify this organism? _____ Why this family?
2. Scientific name you have designated for this whale:

Genus _____ Species _____

Useful Information:

Latin roots and their meaning:

mysticetus = mustache

musculus = muscular

optera = wing or fin

macros = large

physeter = blower

dens = tooth

glacialis = icy

pteron = wing

albus = white

melanus = black

curvus = arched or bent

balaena = baleen

mysticetus = mustache

cephalus = head

acutus = sharp

mega (Latin) = big

nova = new

robustus = strong

anglaie = England

eu = true

Greek roots and their meaning:

phusa = bellows

gigas = big