

Habitat Sweet Habitat

OBJECTIVE

Students will be able to describe the general habitats of seals, sea lions, and walruses.

BACKGROUND

Pinnipeds live in many different habitats around the world. California sea lions favor rocky shorelines often exposed to high surf. Harbor seals prefer the calmer waters of bays or estuaries. Pacific walruses haul out onto pack ice.

MATERIALS

per student:

- 12" x 18" white construction paper
- one small brown paper bag (lunch sack size)

per class:

- glue
- salt
- crayons
- colored pencils



ACTION

1. Lead a discussion about the habitats of different animals. Encourage students to think about their own habitats, too. Describe the habitats of a California sea lion, a harbor seal, and a Pacific walrus.
2. Tell students they will create each of these three animals' habitats using natural objects they collect from outside. Ask students what each animal would need in its habitat, and what kinds of things they could use to represent them.
3. Give each student a brown paper bag. Take the class outside and have students collect natural objects such as grass, leaves, petals, rocks, bark, sand, and dirt. Provide students with salt to represent snow.
4. After the group returns to the classroom, give each student a piece of construction paper. Have students

fold the paper into three sections. Have students use glue, crayons, and colored pencils to create their habitats, one for each animal.



Harbor seals often haul out onto shore to rest on sandy beaches.