

# Pinnipeds Around The World

## OBJECTIVE

The students will be able to locate the distribution of California sea lions and Pacific walruses.

## MATERIALS

*per student:*

- enlarged photocopy of map on page 17
- colored pencils

*per class:*

- globe

## BACKGROUND

Pinniped populations can be found worldwide from the cold waters of the Arctic and Antarctic to the warm tropical waters of Hawaii. Populations usually concentrate around areas of high productivity, those areas of the ocean that support large numbers of fishes and squid (important prey items of most pinnipeds). Pinnipeds also favor coastlines that offer places to haul out, or come ashore. Some pinnipeds, like California sea lions, can be found on rocky shorelines. Others, like harbor seals, frequent sandy beaches.



## ACTION

1. Show the world globe to students. Ask for volunteers to come up and find the Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, United States, Canada, Alaska, California, North Pole, and the Equator.
2. Distribute copies of world maps. Ask students to find the same locations identified on the globe. Students can mark locations by writing names or by colors (for example, Pacific, dark blue; Atlantic, light blue; United States, orange; California, green; Canada, yellow; Alaska, purple; North Pole, pink; and Equator, black).
3. Ask students where they think California sea lions live. Mark the distribution on the map.
4. Ask students where they think Pacific walruses live. Mark the distribution on the map.
5. Ask students where they live. Mark it on the map. Do they see California sea lions or Pacific walruses where they live?

### DEEPER DEPTHS

Chart the distribution of some other pinnipeds. Use *Pinniped Picks* on pages 6 and 7 to begin. Students can choose one animal and present their results to class or work in student groups with two or three animals. Research more pinnipeds using library resources.

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