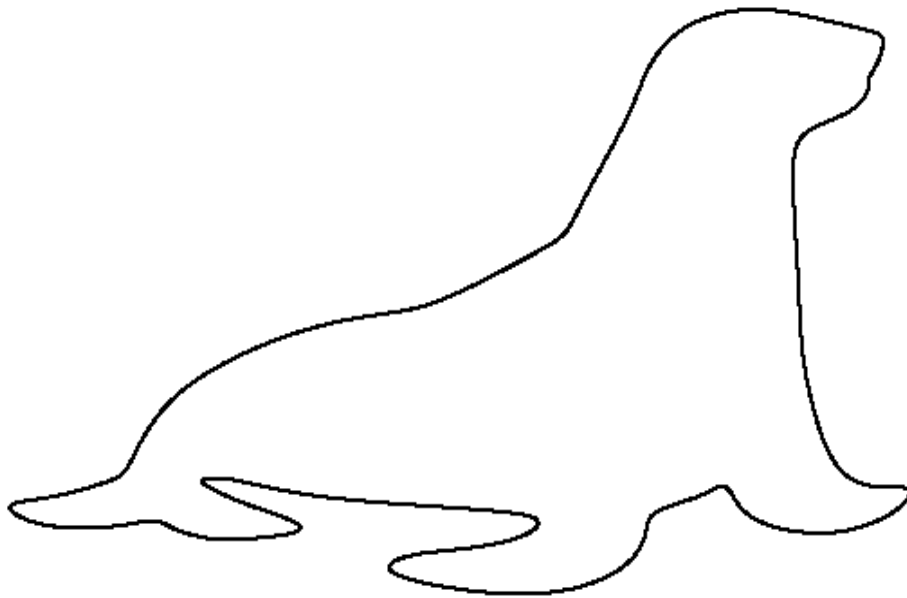




## California Sea Lion Activity Sheet

Grades K-2:

California Sea Lions have some pretty cool adaptations! They have amazing flippers and a tail that helps them swim through the water. Can you label the tail and the flippers? When you are done, color the sea lion! Be sure to add their tiny ears and long whiskers!



Practice writing the words below:

# California Sea Lion

Pretend you are a sea lion! How would you move on land?

Sea Lions and seals move differently. While sea lions can move their hips to help them get around better on land, seals can't! That means they have to wiggle and roll! Watch a video of a sea lion on land and a seal on land, then have a race where you practice moving like each of them! Who is the fastest moving like a sea lion? Who is the fastest moving like a seal? Ready, set, go!

Grades 3-5:

Sea Lions are trained to do amazing behaviors at the zoo! Our zookeepers ask the sea lion to do a behavior, then they give them a treat when they do what is asked. It's not just for fun, these "tricks" help the zookeepers take care of the sea lions!

For each behavior listed below, write how you think it helps the zookeepers take care of the sea lion! For example, "Spin" is where the sea lion spins around in a circle, using its strong front flippers. This helps the zookeepers to see the whole body, look for any cuts, scrapes or problems, and it's like a workout exercise for the sea lion!

Your turn! How could these behaviors help with care? Write your answers below. The answer key is at the end of this worksheet, but no peeking until you're done!

1. Open mouth: The zookeeper takes their thumb and pointer finger, pinches them together, and then opens wide in an L shape.
2. Come: The zookeeper dramatically waves their arm to one side to tell the sea lion to come over.
3. Target: The zookeeper holds a target stick which has a rounded part at the end and the sea lion is trained to touch it with their nose!
4. Hold: Put your hand up like you're saying stop. This tells the sea lion to stay still right where they are!
5. Wave: This one is easy - just wave! Our sea lions know how to wave, too!

Now that you know a few sea lion behaviors, try them out with your family! You could even try teaching your pet a few. Try coming up with a few new behaviors that are fun, but also have an important purpose!

Grades 6-12:

Have you ever heard of the Marine Mammal Protection Act? It's a very important law that protects a lot of animals - including sea lions! When was the act put in place? What animals are included? What people are excluded from these regulations? Research three species that are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and why they are important in their ecosystem.

Another threat to marine mammals like sea lions is global warming. Read this article: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/09/10/extraordinary-ocean-heatwave-called-the-blob-back/2277096001/>

Once you're finished, review the ways global warming is affecting our oceans and brainstorm three things you can do to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions.

Training Answer Key:

1. When the sea lion opens their mouth, our zookeepers or veterinarian can check to make sure their teeth are healthy!
2. We can't easily pick up and move a sea lion to move them! The come command helps to start a training session where the zookeeper can do lots of other behaviors to check their health. It also helps shift them around their exhibit and holding areas.
3. Target is one of the first commands an animal learns! This is a good first step toward building a relationship between the trainer and the animal. Plus, it can help move them around before they learn the come command!
4. Our zookeepers and veterinarians check our sea lions to make sure they are healthy. That is much easier when the sea lion stays still! Plus, if they need an injection or a shot - just like you get at the doctor sometimes - we can do that easily with the hold command!
5. Wave is a really fun trick, but it also helps our zookeepers check over the sea lion's flippers!

\*Parents, you can share a picture or a video showing what you and your students learned with us on our Facebook page! Just leave a comment on the video of Miss Jackie with Toni, the sea lion! Did you teach your dog to wave? Your hamster to touch their nose to a target? Your mom to spin? Are you practicing how to be a sea lion yourself? We want to see you be creative! Remember, we train all of our animals using POSITIVE reinforcement and you should too!