

## THINKING ABOUT ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

### Woods Hole Science Aquarium Activity Sheet

Observe the animals at the aquarium and answer the questions.



## ANIMAL KINGDOMS

Observe the tanks throughout the aquarium; list at least three of the animal species you find in each of these animal phyla.

<b>Chordates</b> (animals with spinal cords)	<b>Echinoderms</b> (sea stars, urchins)	<b>Arthropods</b> (crabs, spiders, insects)	<b>Mollusks</b> (snails, slugs, clams, squid, octopus)	<b>Cnidarians</b> (corals, sea anemones, jellyfish, hydrozoans)
< < Various > >				

**MARINE MAMMALS:** Observe the aquarium's non-releasable harbor seals and answer the questions below. Use the informational panels found in the seal exhibit to help you.

1) Fill in the blanks for the scientific classification for the aquarium seals.

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Phocidae

Genus: Phoca

Species: Vitulina

Common Name: Harbor Seal

2) We know that mammals breathe air. How long can harbor seals hold their breath underwater?

Approximately 20 minutes

3) What animal is most closely related to seals?

- a) bears (bears)
- b) whales
- c) horses

4) Based on your own observations of the seals, list three adaptations that help this animal survive.

Various; students may list many

5) Would you ever see healthy seals out of the water on land, beaches, or rock jetties?

If you answer No, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

If you answer Yes, what might they be doing there? Yes \_\_\_\_\_

Sleeping, resting, warming in the sun, birthing, baby waiting for mom.

6) What federal law protects seals?

Marine Mammal Protection Act

7) How far away from marine mammals must you stay if you encounter one?

100 yards

8) Briefly explain why the seals at the Woods Hole Science Aquarium are trained.

For mental stimulation and husbandry (physical care)

9) In what year were marine mammals federally protected?

1972

10) BONUS FUN: Do harbor seals make a barking sound?

YES

NO No