



Marine Mammal Commission: Education Curriculum Lesson Plan Outline for Kindergarten-2nd Grade

SLIDES

1. Cover slide
2. Can anyone name some of these animals?
 - a. **Allow for guesses from students**
 - i. Bottlenose dolphins
 - ii. Killer whales (which are actually dolphins)
 - iii. Sea lions
 - iv. Humpback whale
 - v. Polar bear
 - vi. Walruses
3. What do all these animals have in common?
 - i. **Allow for guesses from students.**
 - ii. Answer: they are all marine mammals!
4. What is a mammal?
 - a. A mammal is warm blooded, usually has hair or fur, breathes air through lungs, has live young, and produce milk for their babies. Cats and dogs are mammals. Are you?
5. What is a marine mammal?
 - a. What makes a marine mammal special is that it needs the ocean to survive. All marine mammals still breathe air like we do, but they find their food in the water and some species must live their whole lives in the water—much longer than you can stay in a swimming pool!
 - b. How are we similar to marine mammals?
 - i. We have hair and we are born alive—we aren't hatched from eggs!
 - c. As you saw in some of the first pictures, marine mammals come in all shapes and sizes. There are 129 species of marine mammal!
 - d. Here are some examples of different marine mammals.
6. Seals, Sea Lions, and Walruses
 - a. There are 33 species of pinnipeds – the name for seals, sea lions, and walruses.
 - b. They spend most of their lives diving for food or relaxing in the sun.
7. Walruses
 - a. Walruses can weigh more than 4000 pounds!
 - b. Their tusks are made of ivory and can reach 1 meter long! That is bigger than you!
8. Polar Bear
 - a. Polar bears look different than other marine mammals, but they still need the water to survive—they eat other marine mammals like seals. They are

good hunters, and walk across the ice for long distances looking for seals to hunt.

9. Polar Bear

- a. If the ice melts, it becomes harder for them to find food because they have to swim farther distances.

10. Sea Otters

- a. To keep from drifting apart while they sleep, sea otters often sleep holding paws.
- b. Sea Otters have very thick fur which keeps them warm in cold water.

11. Dolphins

- a. Maybe you've seen a dolphin before?
- b. They are very smart animals and even know who they are when they look in a mirror.
- c. They are often very social and live in groups called pods.

12. Dolphins

- a. Did you know there are 44 different species of dolphin in the world?!!
- b. Some even live in rivers, like this one that lives in the Amazon!

13. Toothed Whales

- a. There are two different types of whales: Those with teeth and those with baleen.
- b. This whale has teeth- the sperm whale. It feeds on squid in the deep-sea!

14. Sperm Whale Teeth

- a. Does anyone know how to figure out the age of a tree?
- b. Just like trees, whale teeth lay down layers of growth that we can count to figure out the age of a whale!
- c. Sperm whales have teeth that can weigh over 2 pounds each!

15. Baleen Whales

- a. This is a humpback whale, a baleen whale.
- b. Does anyone know what baleen is?
- c. Baleen is like having a big net in your mouth.

16. Baleen

- a. Baleen whales take BIG mouthfuls of water and then they shoot the water back out of their mouth through the baleen, which has tiny cracks for water to go through. Only the tiny fish and krill stay inside and get eaten. They are some of the biggest animals, but they eat the smallest food.
- b. Humpbacks sing songs underwater. These songs were recorded and you can listen to them-

http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/explore/sounds/whale_song.mp3

17. Who thinks they can match some marine mammals with what they looked like as babies?

- a. ACTIVITY: Matching game
 - a. Match the babies with their moms.
 - a. Babies (from top)
 1. Sea Otter, California sea lion, Beluga Whale, White California Sea Lion.

18. Answers

19. **Answers**

20. **Answers**

21. **Answers**

22. Now that we know about marine mammals let's play some games to show why we need to help protect them. Just like grownups look after us to make sure we don't get hurt, we have to watch out for these animals.
- a. Who here likes to eat fish?
 - b. Do you know how we get fish?
 - c. **Pause for student responses.**
 - d. Fisherman use big nets, traps, and hooks to catch lots of fish for us to eat. This is a picture of one of those traps.
 - e. But sometimes whales and other animals can swim into these nets and ropes and get tangled. That would be like if you were running around with ropes tied around your legs! You wouldn't be able to move very well. The same thing happens to whales.
 - i. **ACTIVITY:** Bring jump ropes /ropes and have them tangle themselves to show how a whale would feel.
 - ii. **ACTIVITY:** Play red rover with the modification that the students are whales trying to get through a 'rope' (the other line of students). Some get stuck, some make it through.

23. Ocean Noise

- a. So we just learned about animals getting caught in ropes, but why else do they need our help?
- b. Has anyone ever been on a boat? Was it very loud, and maybe a little scary?
- c. Big boats like this one are really important for moving things around the world, but they can be very loud to animals in the water. We're going to play a game to see what it's like to be a marine mammal underwater trying to talk to its family while a boat is near.
 - i. **ACTIVITY:**
 1. Get students to form pairs.
 2. Place the students in two lines with partners placed randomly in the lines.
 3. Ask the students to close their eyes. Turn on music and see if the students can find their partner (or without music, just get them to try to find each other by the sound of their voices- it will get loud!).

24. Thank you! Feel free to look up more information at mmc.gov!