

# Spotlight on Whales & Other Aquatic Mammals

## Group Worksheet

### Station #1: All About Mammals

- 1) What are the characteristics of a mammal?
  - a. Warm-blooded
  - b. Give birth to live young
  - c. Have fur or hair
  - d. Mothers nurse their young
  - e. All of the above



- 2) Which two animals are marsupials?
  - a. Whale and dolphin
  - b. Grizzly bear and river otter
  - c. Kangaroo and koala
  - d. Platypus and echidna



- 3) Name two animals that are NOT mammals. \_\_\_\_\_

### Station #2: Seal Presentation

- 1) How many seals does The Maritime Aquarium have in the harbor seal exhibit? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) A harbor seal's body shape is fusiform (rounded in the middle and narrowed at the ends). Why is this body shape an advantage to the seals?
  - a. Helps the seals haul out onto land.
  - b. Makes the seals more hydrodynamic and helps them be good swimmers.
  - c. There is no advantage to the seal having a fusiform body shape.
- 3) Seals are classified as:
  - a. Marsupials
  - b. Pinnipeds
  - c. Cetaceans
  - d. Amphibians



### Station #3: Feeding & Diet

- 1) A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ is an animal that eats only plant material, a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ is an animal that eats other animals, and a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ is an animal that eats both plant and animal material.

HINT: words to choose from are omnivore, herbivore, and carnivore

- 2) Whales are separated into two groups based on their feeding habits. What are they?
  - a. Mysterious and odorous
  - b. Baleen and toothed
  - c. Vertebrate and invertebrate
  - d. Hairy and hairless



3) A food web shows the feeding relationships between **only one or two** different living things.

True or False? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Station #4: Body Coverings

1) Which of the following animals have hair or fur?

- a. Whales
- b. Otters
- c. Beavers
- d. Muskrats
- e. All of the above



2) The layer of blubber on a right whale is \_\_\_\_\_ inches thick.

- a. 2.5
- b. 5
- c. 9.5
- d. 13
- e. Trick question – right whales don't have blubber!

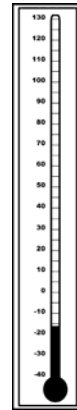
3) Record the temperatures for the following:

Control bag \_\_\_\_\_ degrees

Blubber bag \_\_\_\_\_ degrees

Fur bag \_\_\_\_\_ degrees

Which bag provides the most insulation? \_\_\_\_\_



#### Station #5: Otter Presentation

1) River otters live in Connecticut. True or False? \_\_\_\_\_



2) River otters will use dens made by made by beavers, muskrats or woodchucks.

True or False? \_\_\_\_\_

2) Write one way river otters are adapted to live both on land and in water.

#### Station #6: We're All Connected!

Make sure to visit the We're All Connected station to learn about interactions between human beings and aquatic mammals!