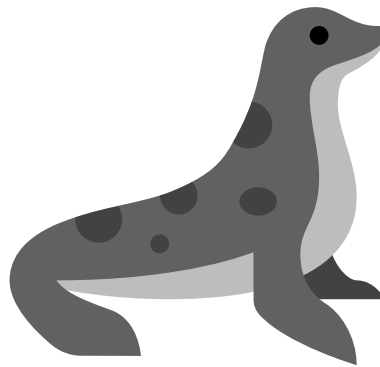
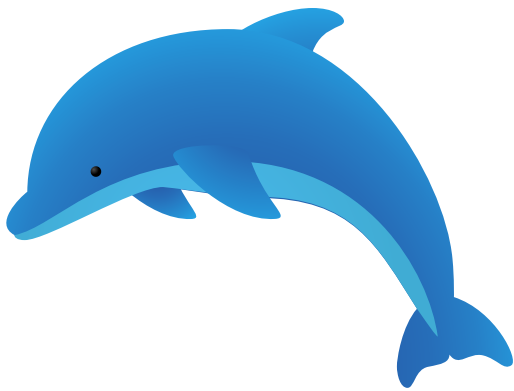


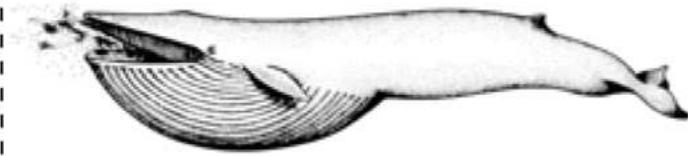


# Mammal Cards Matching Game

The Monterey Bay Aquarium has many different types of "critter cards" on their website. Today's activity uses the marine mammal cards provided on their website. The cards have both pictures and a description of each marine mammal.

For this activity, print out the cards provided of the marine mammals, and study each. Then, cut out each mammal card, separating the picture from the description. Mix them up and try to match each animal to its description!





### **Blue whale**

*Balaenoptera musculus* [size: to 100 ft. (30.5 m)]

Largest of all living animals, the 160-ton blue whale consumes some fairly-small prey. Lunging open-mouthed at schools of shrimplike krill, this baleen whale can engulf and strain four tons of food daily.

The 24-foot long newborn blue whale is an impressive eater, too. Drinking 130 gallons of milk a day, the calf can double its weight in one week.

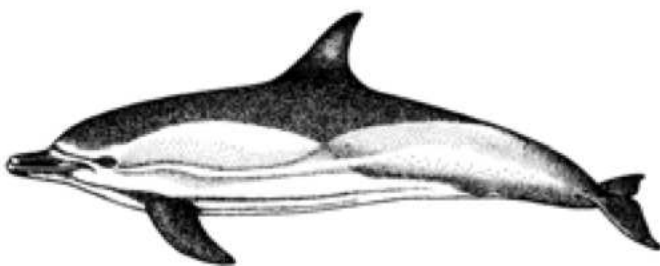


### **California sea lion**

*Zalophus californianus* [size: to 7.5 ft. (2.3 m)]

Diving 800 feet deep, the sea lion paddles with its strong front limbs and steers with its rear flippers. On land, it rotates the hind flippers forward to walk on all fours.

At mating time, the male sea lion barks and bellows to establish his territory and gather a harem of females. Never giving ground, not even to eat, the bull defends his turf from male intruders.



### **Common dolphin**

*Delphinus delphis* [size: to 8.5 ft. (2.6 m)]

These slender dolphins live and travel in huge groups that can cover several square miles. Even in pods of a hundred or more, the dolphins protect each other. When one is injured, the others take turns supporting it so it doesn't drown.

In some countries, people still hunt and eat dolphins. Thousands more die each year, accidentally caught in fish nets.

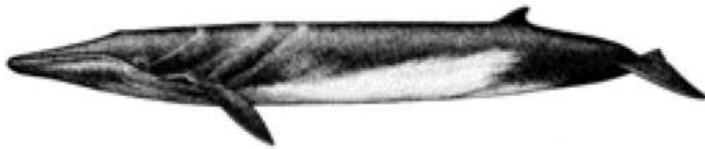


### **Dall's porpoise**

*Phocoenoides dalli* [size: to 7 ft. (2.1 m)]

This stocky porpoise has a small dorsal fin and tiny flippers, but it's a spectacular swimmer. Moving like a hydroplane, it races through the water, leaving behind a "rooster tail" of spray when it surfaces for air.

For food, the Dall's porpoise favors deep sea fishing. It roams out beyond the continental shelf to hunt for squids, crustaceans and fishes.



### **Fin whale**

*Balaenoptera physalis* [size: to 88 ft. (27 m)]

The world's second largest animal, the fin whale can cruise the open ocean at speeds of 35 miles an hour. Most other whales can't swim so fast for extended periods.

Uneven coloring makes the fin whale unique among all whales; its lower jaw is white on the right and black on the left. Dark and light patterns on its body may disguise the fin whale as it hunts fishes.

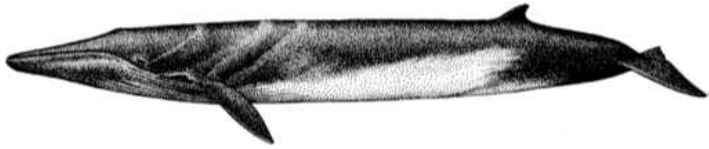


### **Gray whale**

*Eschrichtius robustus* [size: to 50 ft. (15 m)]

Gray whales make the longest migration of any mammal, swimming 12,000 miles each year. In fall, they head south to their breeding lagoons in Baja California; in spring, they return north to feed in the Bering Sea.

Unlike other baleen whales, the gray whale eats bottom-living crustaceans. The whale sucks in a mouthful of mud and strains it through the baleen to remove the prey.

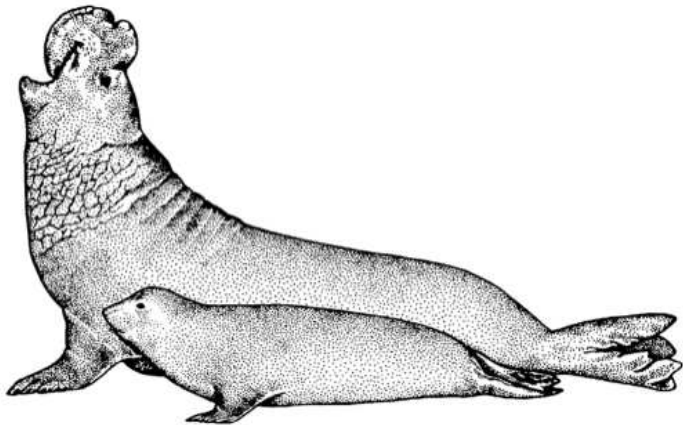


### **Minke whale**

*Balaenoptera acutorostrata* [size: to 35 ft. (10.7 m)]

Although it's as long as a bus, the minke whale is the smallest of the baleen whales. As agile as a porpoise, it can leap from the water in a graceful arc or ride the bow wave of a passing ship.

Alone or with a companion, the minke whale hunts squids, fishes and krill. The whale jumps and splashes to gather its prey in a ball, then lunges in to scoop up the cluster.

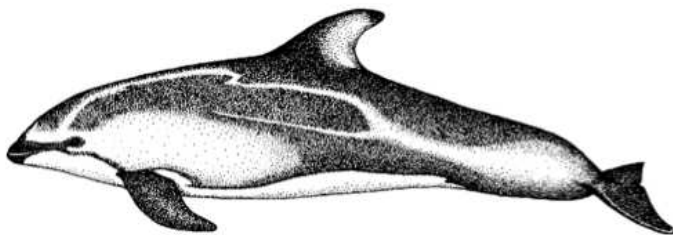


### **Northern elephant seal**

*Mirounga angustirostris* [size: to 19.5 ft. (5.9 m)]

Once hunted to near-extinction, elephant seals are now breeding successfully again. At mating time, they move ashore, the males battling for position. With snorts of warning, the dominant bulls defend their females against rival males.

After breeding, the elephant seals return to the sea to feed. Diving deeper than 2,700 feet, they hunt deep water fishes and squids.

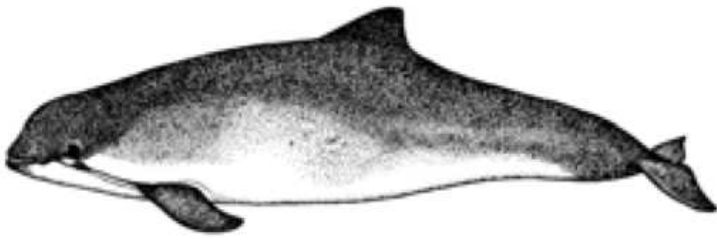


### **Pacific white-sided dolphin**

*Lagenorhynchus obliquidens* [size: to 7 ft. (2.1 m)]

Resident pods of hundreds of white-sided dolphins streak through Monterey Bay. They swim in formation with other dolphins and sea lions, sometimes leaping from the water in spirited somersaults.

Each dolphin is unique, from the patterns on its body to the noises it makes. High-pitched squeaks, clicks and whistles help it communicate with its family pod.

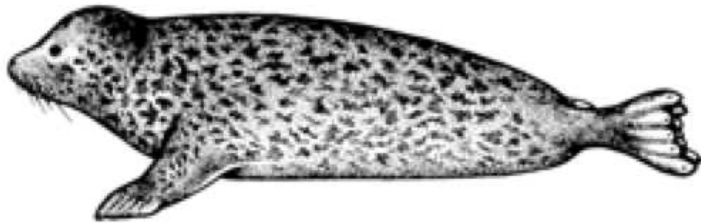


### **Harbor porpoise**

*Phocoena phocoena* [size: to 6 ft. (1.8 m)]

The stocky harbor porpoise lives near shore in harbors, bays and river mouths. Wary of boats, it won't cruise alongside them, preferring to swim quietly on the surface.

Harbor porpoises work cooperatively to hunt squids and fishes. The porpoises herd a school of fish into a tight ball, then each porpoise grabs a fish head-first and swallows it whole.

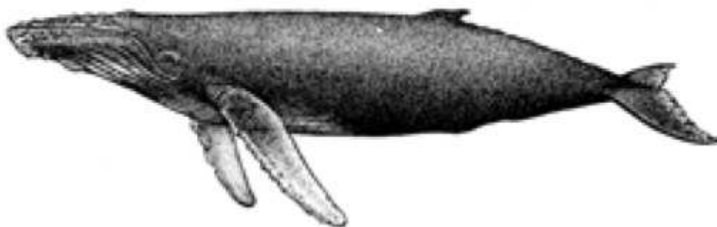


### **Harbor seal**

*Phoca vitulina* [size: to 5 ft. (1.5 m)]

A harbor seal can't "walk" on land the way a sea lion can. On shore, the harbor seal has to inch along awkwardly on its belly, but in water, it's a graceful swimmer, powered by its webbed hind flippers.

Harbor seals don't migrate far from home. They hunt fishes, squids and octopuses near shore, using their large eyes and sensitive whiskers to help them locate prey.



### **Humpback whale**

*Megaptera novaeangliae* [size: to 51 ft. (15.6 m)]

Humpback whales travel between their Arctic feeding grounds and tropical breeding grounds. Some migrate to Hawaii and some to Mexico; a few visit both sites in different years.

In the breeding areas, the males display their great vocal range with songs that may warn off other males or attract females. As they sing, the whales gradually alter their song, so each year it's a different melody.