

A photograph of a California sea lion sitting on a wooden deck next to a pool. The sea lion is looking towards the camera. The background shows a pool of water and some people in the distance.

The california sea lion

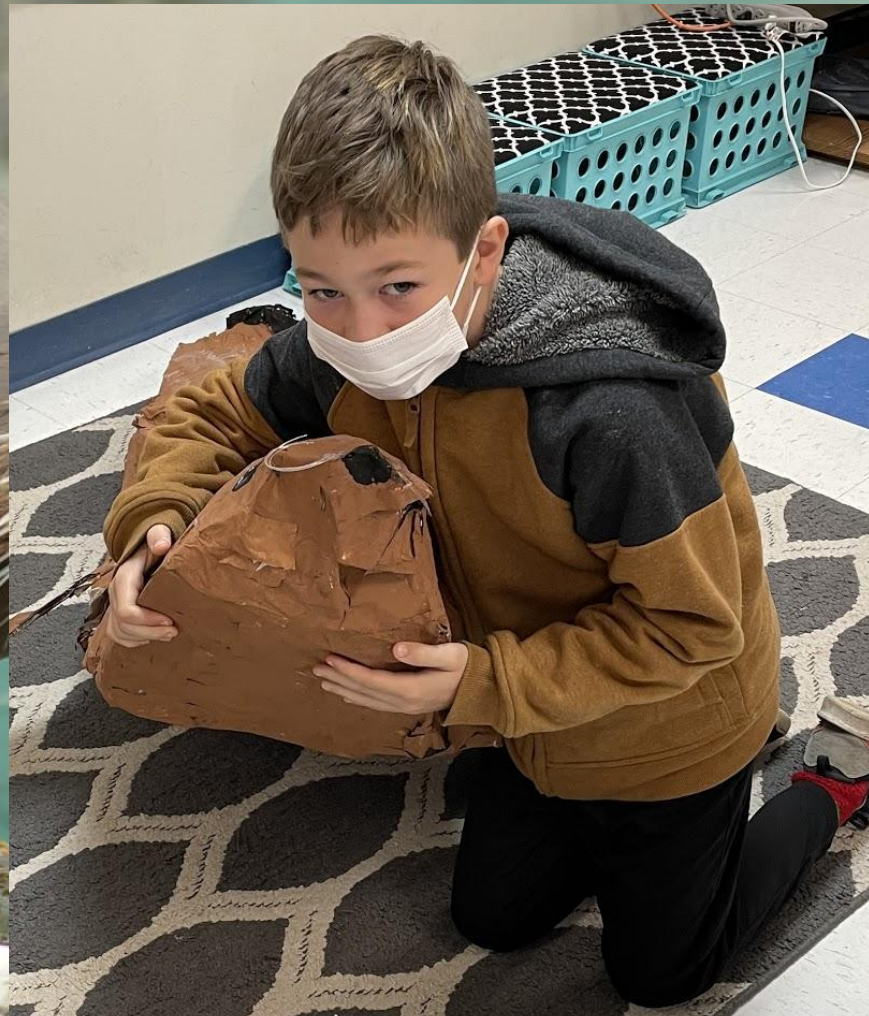
By Isaac Sayyar



Introduction

Did you know the California sea lion was first discovered by Rene Primevere, a French naturalist, in 1828? You will commonly find them up against jetties sunbathing. If you find one, don't worry it is harmless. The California Sea Lion is an interesting animal with lots of features.

The California Sea Lion lives in the sunlight zone. It is found in the Pacific Ocean, which borders Australia, Asia and North America. They prefer warm water but can be also found in cold. Since they live in California the weather is hot.



Interesting facts

The average size of California sea lion is five in a half to over seven feet. They can dive down 900 feet and stay down there for 10 minutes! They stay down there without breathing by slowing their heart rate. The average lifespan in the wild is up to 30 years.



Diet and Predators

The California Sea Lion eats fish, squid, and many crustaceans. With their back molars, they crush shells. They will either eat their food normally, or tear it into chunks. They are preyed on by sharks and killer whales.



A young brown leatherback sea turtle is resting on a sandy beach. The turtle has a thick, wrinkled brown shell and a lighter brown head with whiskers. It is looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. The background is a soft-focus view of the ocean and sky.

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Leatherback Sea Turtles

Did you know that leatherback sea turtles are the largest species of sea turtles in the world? There are only about thirty-five thousand remaining leatherback turtles compared to one hundred and fifteen million remaining Atlantic hawksbills. Their scientific name is Dermochelys Coriacea. Turtles are considered a type of reptile. A reptile is a cold-blooded animal with scales. The name of one lea on land and in water. Their average lifespan in the wild is thirty-five years.

This is the only sea turtle that does not have a shell and big scales. Although it does not have big scales and a shell, it does have very big fins. These fins are like paddles to help them swim through the water. The back flippers are like a steering wheel. This sea turtle can be as long as seven feet. They can weigh up to two thousand pounds.

They eat a lot of jellyfish and sea squirts. The sea turtles go to the depths of the ocean to eat their food. It has been discovered that they like to eat of sea slugs as well as hawksbills and sharks.