

# Pinnipeds Around the World



## Objective

Students will be able to locate, on a map, the distribution of California sea lions and Pacific walruses.

## Materials

per student:

- enlarged copy of map below
- colored pencils

per class:

- globe

## Background

Pinniped populations can be found worldwide from the cold waters of the Arctic and Antarctic to the warm tropical waters of Hawaii. Populations usually concentrate around areas of high productivity, those areas of the ocean that support large numbers of fishes and squid (important prey items of most pinnipeds). Pinnipeds also favor coastlines that offer places to haul out, or come ashore. Some pinnipeds, like California sea lions, can be found on rocky shorelines. Others, like harbor seals, frequent sandy beaches.

## Action

1. Show the world globe to students. Ask for volunteers to come up and find the Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, United States, Canada, Alaska, California, North Pole, and the Equator.
2. Distribute copies of world maps. Ask students to find the same locations identified on the globe. They can mark locations by writing names or with colors (For example, they can color the Pacific Ocean dark blue, the Atlantic yellow, etc.).
3. Ask students where they think California sea lions live. Mark the distribution on the map.
4. Ask students where they think Pacific walruses live. Mark the distribution on the map.
5. Ask students where they live. Mark it on the map. Are they close to walruses or California sea lions?

