

Habitat Sweet Habitat



Objective

Students will be able to describe the general habitats of seals, sea lions, and walruses.

Materials

per student:

- 12" x 18" white construction paper
- one small brown paper bag

per class:

- glue
- salt
- crayons
- colored pencils

Background

Pinnipeds live in many different habitats around the world. California sea lions favor rocky shorelines often exposed to high surf. Harbor seals prefer the calmer waters of bays or estuaries. Pacific walruses haul out onto pack ice.

Action

1. Lead a discussion about the habitat of different animals. Encourage students to think about their own habitats, too. Describe the habitats of a California sea lion, a harbor seal, and a Pacific walrus.
2. Tell students they will create each of these three animals' habitats using natural objects they collect from outside. Ask students what each animal would need in its habitat, and what kinds of things they could use to represent them.
3. Give each student a brown paper bag. Take the class outside and have students collect natural objects such as grass, leaves, petals, rocks, bark, sand, and dirt. Provide students with salt to represent snow.
4. After the group returns to the classroom, give each student a piece of construction paper. Have students fold the paper into three sections. Have students use glue, crayons, and colored pencils to create their habitats, one for each animal.