

Harbor Seal Visor

OBJECTIVE

Students will be able to describe the senses of a harbor seal and how the seal uses these senses.

BACKGROUND

Harbor seals have good eyesight, an acute sense of hearing, and, with their whiskers, a good sense of touch. Hearing is probably the most important sense, both above and below water. Hearing under water helps seals locate prey like fish. Hearing in air helps seals locate each other and their pups. Seals have good eyesight under water. Their large eyes are sensitive to light; they can see in dark water.

MATERIALS

per student:

- a small, white paper plate cut according to pattern on page 11
- harbor seal head on white construction paper (pattern page 11)
- two 12" strands of black yarn
- nose cut from black construction paper (pattern page 11)
- eyes cut from brown construction paper (pattern page 11)
- three pipe cleaners (various colors)

per class:

- black tempera paint
- paint bowls
- sponges cut into 2-inch cubes
- glue
- crayons
- clothespins



ACTION

1. Distribute harbor seal heads and cut paper plates to students. Students glue straight edge of head piece to folded-up flaps of paper plate.
2. Distribute harbor seal eyes to students. Ask them how a harbor seal uses its eyes. Glue eyes to head.
3. Distribute harbor seal noses to students. Ask how a harbor seal uses its nose. Tell students all seals can close their noses and hold their breath, some for more than an hour (elephant seals).
4. Distribute clothespins, sponges, and black paint. Clip the clothespin on the sponge. Show students how to dip sponge in black paint and dab "spots" on the harbor seal. A small amount of paint is best.
5. Distribute pipe cleaners. These are whiskers. How do harbor seals use whiskers? Thread pipe cleaners through holes in paper plate.
6. Tie yarn through holes in paper plate. When paint is dry, students can wear their harbor seal visors.

Pattern For Harbor Seal Visor

