



SEYMOUR CENTER AT LONG MARINE LABORATORY

“Who Are Scientists?” (Purple Pod) Chaperone Facilitated Activities (Kindergarten - Grade 4)

Marine scientists try to figure out what’s going on. As you puzzle out something, you add up all the pieces to form a complete picture. Let’s explore how scientists piece together their conclusions...

How do marine mammals stay warm?

(The four fur pelts used in this activity are usually lying out on the table in the Purple Pod. If they are not out, please ask one of the volunteers in blue shirts if they can lay them out for your group.)

1. **Read this to your group:** Let’s find out how four different mammals that live in the ocean stay warm. The water here in Monterey Bay can become chilly, and mammals like seals and sea lions that live there need to be able to stay warm. Many marine mammals have a thick layer of fat called blubber that keeps them warm. Others rely more on their fur to stay warm. To figure out which animals depend on fur, blubber (a layer of fat), or both fur and blubber to stay warm, we’ll take turns GENTLY feeling each.
2. Demonstrate how to feel a small part of each pelt gently. Ask the children the following questions as you take turns feeling the pelts. Discuss your group’s answers.
 - A. Which animal has the thickest and fluffiest fur to keep it warm? (*Sea otters.*)
 - B. Which other animal besides the otter has fluffy fur? (*Northern fur seal.*) It uses both its fur and blubber to keep warm, which is why its fur is not as thick as the otter’s.
 - C. Which two mammals don’t have fluffy fur because they use their blubber to keep warm? (*California sea lion and harbor seal.*)
 - D. Can you figure out which direction water flowed over the harbor seal’s body? Which end would be the head? (*It will feel smooth when your hand goes from head to tail because the fur grows in one direction to reduce drag in the water.*)