



Marine Mammals

The Marine Mammals BC Hydro AquaVan Program provides an exciting, educational experience that complements the learning outcomes of the B.C. Ministry of Education's Integrated Resource Packages. (Please see Curriculum Links section for a detailed description of program-curriculum links.)

THE following activities are designed to introduce ocean life and the some of animals that the students will learn about during their BC Hydro AquaVan visit.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MARINE MAMMALS PROGRAM

- ★ Introduce students to the diverse class of marine mammals from Canada's Pacific shores and waters

- ★ Explore ways that marine mammals have adapted to their world. Compare and contrast humans with marine mammals

- ★ Inspire respect and appreciation for marine mammals and the marine environment

Activities

- 1) Return to the Ocean:** Humans are terrestrial mammals. Have your class brainstorm about how humans would have to change to survive in a marine environment.

- 2) Sizing up marine Mammals:** Take your class outside to measure the lengths of a variety of marine mammals. Have your students record the lengths of the marine mammals listed below and use their calculating minds to figure out how many 75 kilogram adult humans would weight the same amount as each marine animals.

Grey Whale 15 metres long, and up to 16 tonnes

Killer Whale 9.4 metres, and up to 8 tonnes

Sea Otter 1.5 metres long, and 45 kilograms

COOL FACT: The largest of all living animals is a blue whale. This baleen whale can reach a length of 30 metres and weigh over 200 tonnes – the same weight as more than 2,000 adult humans!

- ★ **NOTE:** *In the marine mammals program the students will visit with marine invertebrates from the BC Coast. For the safety and comfort of the animals, students will only be able to gently touch the animals with their pinky fingers. Discuss the concepts of kindness and respect for all living things with your class before their BC Hydro AquaVan program.*

