

ANIMALS ILLUSTRATED

Ringed Seal

by William Flaherty • illustrated by Sara Otterstätter



EDUCATOR'S
RESOURCE



Animals Illustrated: Ringed Seal

About the Book

Animals Illustrated mixes fun-filled animal facts suitable for the youngest of readers with intricately detailed illustrations to create a unique and beautiful collection of children's non-fiction books about Arctic animals. Each volume contains first-hand accounts from authors who live in the Arctic, along with interesting facts on the behaviours and biology of each animal. In this book, kids will learn what ringed seals eat, where they live, how they raise their babies, and other interesting facts, like how deep they can dive and how they are amazing diggers!

About the Author

William Flaherty is a conservation officer and an avid hunter who regularly volunteers with Iqaluit Search and Rescue. He lives in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

About the Illustrator

Sara Otterstätter studied illustration and graphic design at the University for Applied Studies in Münster, Germany. Since 2007 she has been working as a freelance illustrator for German and international publishing houses. The focus of her works is educational illustrations for children.

Pre-Reading Discussion Questions and Activities

- What kind of a book do you think this is?
- Is this book fiction or non-fiction? How do we know?
- Have you ever seen a seal before? Where?
- What other animals do you know that live in the same habitat as seals?
- Open the book to the table of contents. What information does a table of contents provide? Why do you think the author included this page?
- Which section do you think you will find the most interesting based on these headings?
- Seals are very useful to humans in so many ways! Can you think of any ways that humans use seals?
- Make a **KWL** chart, as shown below. Ask the class what they already know about ringed seals, and make a list under the "What I Know" column. Ask the class what they'd like to know about ringed seals, and make a list under the "What I Want to Know" column. Save the third column for after the book has been read.

What I Know	What I Want to Know	What I Learned

During and Post-Reading Discussion Questions

The following questions and discussion points can be used during and after reading *Animals Illustrated: Ringed Seal*. Provide students with the chance to voice their own opinions, share their experiences, ask questions, or point out anything else they may notice about the book.

Page 2

- Find the circumpolar North on a globe or world map. Find Canada's Arctic.

Page 3

- What does "most common" mean?

Page 4

- What does "range" mean?
- What other animals do you know of that like to spend most of their time alone as opposed to in a group?



Page 6

- Is this how you imagined a ringed seal's skeleton would look? What similarities and differences does it have to a human skeleton? Practice saying each of the labeled words aloud.

Page 10

- What are mammals? What other marine mammals do you know?
- What are three different uses for a seal's blubber?

Page 12

- In the hallway or another area that you have lots of space, measure 150 feet. This is how far the ringed seal can dive down under water!

Pages 14-15

- Summarize what you learned on these pages about where seal pups are born. Why is it important for the mother and baby to have a mound of snow to cover them up on top of the ice? Why does the mother need to have a hole to get back into the ocean?

Page 17

- What is a predator? What predators does a ringed seal have?

Page 18

- What things might a hunter need to bring with them when they go looking for seals?

Page 19

- Do you think a seal can move quite quickly? If you have technology in your classroom, look for video clips of seals moving on top of the ice.
- Why do ringed seals blow bubbles in breathing holes?

Pages 20-21

- Look back at the ideas students had for the way humans use seals. Compare the uses that are shared on these pages.
- Look at all the illustrations on the very last pages of the book. These illustrations were taken from other parts of the book. What things can you remember when you look at these images? (E.g., the fox reminds me that foxes prey on seal pups; the seal skin tent reminds me that is one thing that humans make with seal skin.)

Post-Reading

- After reading the book, finish your **KWL** chart by filling in point form facts that you have learned under the "What I Learned" section of the chart.
- What questions do you still have about ringed seals? Where could you find the answers to these questions?

Extension Activities

Writing: Acrostic Poem

Write the letters in “ringed seal” vertically on your page. Recall information that you learned about ringed seals after reading this book. Write a word or words after each letter that tells something about ringed seals. Display your acrostic poems on your desks or somewhere in your classroom so you can circulate and read your classmates’ poems.

E.g.:

R - really sharp claws

I - in the Arctic ocean

N - Nunavut

G

E

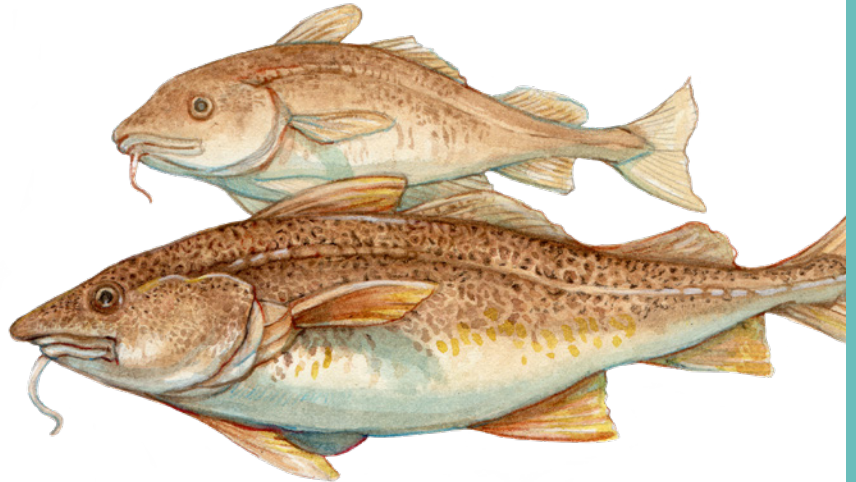
D

S - skull, scapula, and sacrum

E

A

L - live alone



Animal Exploration

Using the same categories that are in the table of contents in this book, find information on any animal of your choice. Try to find at least one or two facts for each of the categories (some categories may differ depending on the animal chosen, such as claws, blubber, traditional uses, etc.). Choose a way to present this information to your class (e.g., writing, drawing, speaking, a play, a diorama).

Talking Circles

Sit in a circle on the floor or in chairs and pass around a talking piece so each person has a turn to contribute. Allow students the right to pass if they do not wish to share. Here are some suggestions to guide the discussion:

- Name one fact that you learned about seals today.
- What is your favourite animal? Why?
- If you could be a seal for a day, what would you do?
- What is one question you still have about seals?
- If you had a pet seal, what would you name it?



Art: Traditional Clothing

Sealskin has many uses. Sealskin boots, or *kamiit*, help keep people warm in cold climates. Imagine you are making a pair of beautiful *kamiik* out of sealskin. Draw a picture of what they would look like. Would they be tall or short? Would they have different colours or accents on them? Would you create some designs using the sealskin? Would you make them for yourself or for someone else? Who?

Vocabulary Scramble

Unscramble the letters to find vocabulary words from the book. Here are a few to get you started:

1. r c c a i t (Arctic)
2. n t a n u u v (Nunavut)
3. e n a l s p g a h (phalanges)
4. r a h n g i t b e o e h l (breathing hole)
5. b b b r e l u (blubber)

