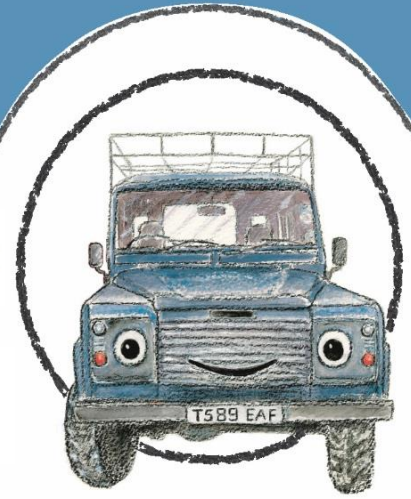


Finding out
with

Fender Sea Life



Fender's Grey Seal Friends

What do Grey Seals look like?



Grey seal babies are born with a fluffy, creamy-white coat which they shed at about 3 weeks old. Their coats vary from silver, grey, to a brownish colour – often with blotches. The adult female seal around 2 metres long and can weigh to up 250kg. The adult male is even bigger at about 2.3 metres and can weigh up to 350kg.



Seals have a thick, fat layer under their skin called blubber. This keeps the seals warm in the cold sea.

They have two short front flippers with five claws, and two tail flippers which power and steer them through the water.

Seals move in a clumsy, caterpillar way on the land but, in the sea, they are very swift and graceful.

The scientific name is *Halichoerus grypus* comes from the Greek for hooked-nose sea-pig.



Where do Grey Seal Live?

They live in the north Atlantic Ocean. Over a third of the world's population live along the rocky coasts of the UK. They like to sunbathe on the rocks to digest their food.

Finding out
with

Fender Sea Life

Fender's Grey Seal Friends



About Grey Seal Families:



Female seals are called cows and males are called bulls. Babies are called pups and they are born on the land. A group of seals is sometimes called a haul.

Mother seals give birth to a single pup, which she feeds for 3 weeks. Her milk is high in fat like thick cream, so the pups grow very fast at about 2kg a day, from 10kg to 40kg before their mums leave them.



What do Grey Seals eat?

Sandeels and cod are their main food, but seals eat nearly any type of fish (mainly from the seabed), mollusc (like shellfish and octopus) crustaceans (like crabs) and even diving birds!



Seals usually hunt in shallow coastal waters but they can dive to 120 m when further offshore for up to 20 minutes. They often use their long whiskers to feel the water currents so they know where the fish are swimming.

Seals also use their 42 pairs of whiskers to dig in the sand to find sand eels.



Finding out
with

Fender Sea Life

Can you answer these questions?



1) How old are grey seal babies when they shed their creamy-white coat?

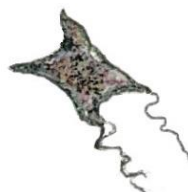
- ☐ 1 Month ☐ 6 weeks ☐ 3 week

2) How heavy can a male seal become?

- ☐ 140kg ☐ 350kg ☐ 260kg

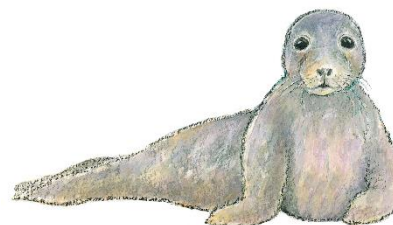


3) What is the name of the thick, fat layer under seals' skin that keep them warm?



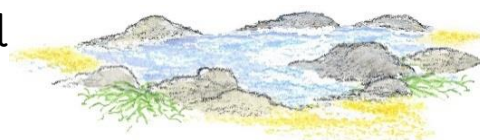
4) How many flippers make up a seal's tail?

- ☐ 2 ☐ 1 ☐ 4



5) Where do seals like to digest their food?

- ☐ On the rocks ☐ In deep water
☐ In rock pools ☐ On dry sand



6) Halichoerus grypus means: H _ _ _ _ - _ _ _ _ s _ _ - _ _ _

Finding out
with

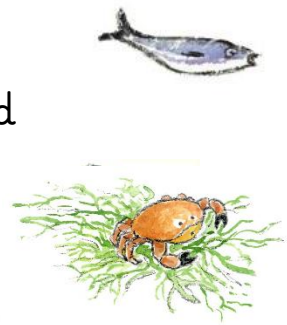
Fender Sea Life

Can you answer these questions?



7) What do seals like to eat? (choose two)

- ☐ shells ☐ crabs ☐ seaweed
☐ octopus ☐ sand eels ☐ cod



8) A mother seal is called a _____. She gives birth to _____ seal _____. Father seal are called _____.

9) How many whiskers do seals have and what do they help the seals to find?

Seals have ☐ whiskers. They help seals find

10) Write two reasons why you think throwing rubbish in the sea is bad for seals and other sea creatures.



Answers



- 1) How old are grey seal babies when they shed their creamy-white coat? **3 weeks**
- 2) How heavy can a male seal become? **350kg**
- 3) What is the name of the thick, fat layer under seals' skin that keep them warm? **blubber**
- 4) How many flippers make up a seal's tail? **2 flippers**
- 5) Where do seals like to digest their food? **On the rocks**
- 6) *Halichoerus grypus* means: **Hooked nose sea-pig**
- 7) What do seals like to eat? **Crabs, octopus, cod, sand eels**
- 8) A mother seal is called a **cow**. She gives birth to one seal **pup**. Father seal are called **bulls**.
- 9) How many whiskers do seals have and what do they help the seals to find? **42 pairs fish**

