

Animals that Live In or Near Water

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A Frog's Life Cycle

By Rachelle Kreisman



Baby frogs are called tadpoles. As tadpoles grow, they change shape. They turn into frogs.

A mother frog lays eggs in, or near, water. Inside each egg, a tadpole grows. Then the tadpole hatches. It has a long tail. The tadpole swims like a fish. It uses gills to breathe underwater.

Next, the tadpole grows legs and toes. Its gills and tail get smaller. The tadpole grows lungs. Now the tadpole is a froglet.

The froglet's tail gets shorter. Soon, its tail is gone. It can leave the water. It can breathe using lungs. The froglet is now a frog.

Sea Turtles Build Nests

By Rachelle Kreisman



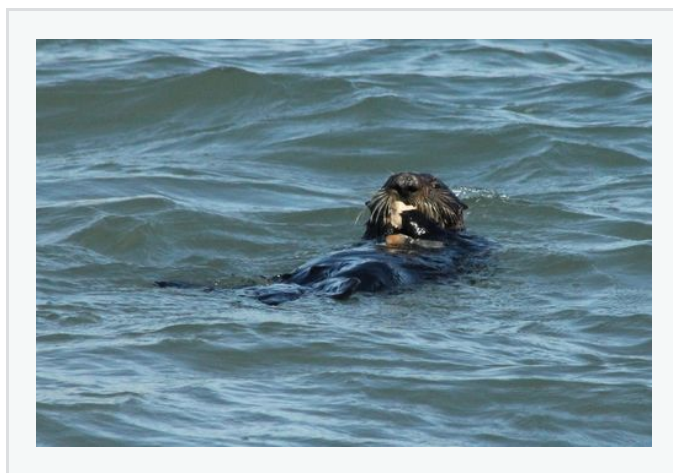
Sea turtles live in the ocean. Mother sea turtles build nests. Where? They go to the beach!

A mother sea turtle swims to a beach. There, she digs in the sand. She uses her body and flippers to make a hole. That is where she lays eggs. She may lay fifty to two hundred eggs. Next she covers the hole with sand. Now the eggs are safe. The mother sea turtle goes back to the sea.

In a few months, the eggs hatch. Baby sea turtles dig out of the sand. They crawl to the sea. Then they swim away.

Rocks Help This Animal Eat

By Kate Paixao



What can you do with rocks? A sea otter uses them to help it eat!

Sea otters live in the ocean. They eat crabs and other animals with hard shells. Here is how rocks help the sea otter eat a meal.

First the sea otter catches its food. Next it swims to the top of the water. Then the sea otter floats on its back. It puts the hard shell on its belly. Bam! The otter hits the shell with a rock. The shell breaks. The otter eats what is inside.

Two Kinds of Whales

By ReadWorks



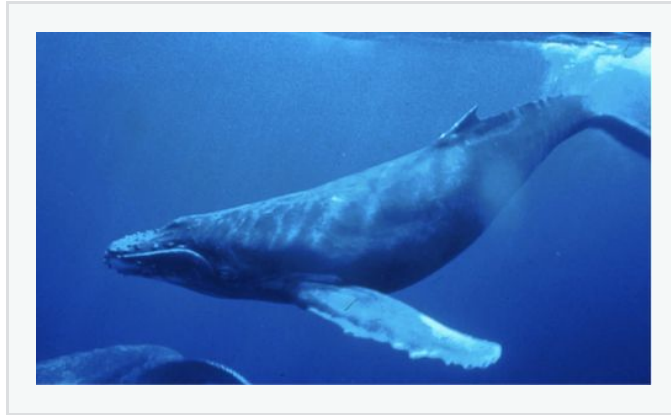
A whale is a huge sea animal. Different kinds of whales live in our oceans. Whales have blowholes on their heads. Some have one blowhole and some have two. A whale lifts its head up from the water to breathe through its blowhole.

The **killer whale** has one blowhole. It has sharp teeth. It uses its teeth to hunt for seals. It is as big as one school bus.

The **blue whale** has two blowholes. It doesn't have teeth, but it eats a lot of krill. Krill are very small and look like shrimp. The blue whale is the biggest whale. In fact, it is the largest animal in the world. It is as big as three school buses!

Whales Take a Trip

By ReadWorks



Humpback whales live in Earth's oceans. Each fall, these whales take a trip. They leave the area where ocean water is cold. They swim to warm ocean water.

Why? The mother whales want to have their babies.

They want to have their babies in warm water. When they are born, the babies will already know how to swim.

They will drink their mothers' milk and grow. Then the mothers and babies will swim back to the cold water.

The American Alligator

By Rachelle Kreisman



The American alligator is a reptile. A reptile is an animal with scales on its skin. It is cold-blooded. That means it needs the sun to keep warm.

American alligators live in the southeastern part of the United States. They live near fresh water. They can swim. They also walk on land.

These alligators are large. They can grow up to fifteen feet long. Some may weigh a thousand pounds! American alligators eat fish, turtles, and birds. They eat other small animals too.

American alligators lay eggs. Alligator babies hatch from the eggs. The newly hatched babies are six to eight inches long.