

Fur Seal Migrations

OBJECTIVE

Students will observe a visual presentation of fur seal migrations and discuss, as a class, information gained by watching the 3 minute video.

TIME REQUIRED

15 minutes

BACKGROUND

Every year, northern fur seals migrate thousands of miles round-trip from their summer breeding grounds on the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea. Learn how NOAA scientists track these seals on their incredible migrations, and where the seals go during the winter months.

MATERIALS

Fur Seal Migrations video - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qI0yzIrEJ4M> (approximately 3 minutes)

PROCEDURES

Watch “Fur Seal Migrations” two times. The first time, allow the students to just watch the video. The second time, ask the students to think about the following questions.

DISCUSSION

- How do scientists find out where the fur seal in the video is going?
- What time of year does the fur seal stay at sea?
- How far does the fur seal travel when it is at sea?
- When does the fur seal return to the Pribilof Islands?
- Why might the fur seal population be declining?

Replay the video if necessary to find the answers. Ask student to write down three things that they learned from the video.

EXPLORE AND EXTEND (5th and 6th grades)

Using Google Earth

- Calculate how many miles it is from St. Paul or St. George Island to San Miguel Island.
- Calculate the distance to Ozette, WA, where fur seal bones were found in Native American middens.