

adaptation Any change in the structure or functioning of an organism that makes it better suited to its environment. (Oxford Dictionary of Science)	eye lens A transparent structure in the eye used to focus light.
Aleut Name used by Russian fur traders in the 1700s when referring to people who inhabited the islands now known as the Aleutian Islands.	feces Bodily waste discharged from animals; also called stool or scat.
Antarctic Circle The line of latitude 66.5° south of the equator. Along this line in the southern hemisphere the sun does not set on the day of the summer solstice (usually 21 December) and does not rise on the winter solstice usually 21 June).	fissiped land carnivore. Fissiped is latin for "split-foot." Foxes, bears, polar bears, dogs, and cats are f
archipelago An extensive group of islands.	food chain A food pathway that links different plants and animals within a community or ecosystem. Nutrients and energy are passed from creature to creature through the food chain.
Arctic Circle The line of latitude 66.5° north of the equator. Along this line in the northern hemisphere the sun does not set on the summer solstice (usually 21 June) and does not rise the winter solstice (usually 21 December).	food web A network of food chains in an ecosystem
baleen A fibrous structure made of keratin found in the mouths of filter-feeding whales such as humpback and gray whales. In humans, keratin can be found in fingernails and toenails.	foraging The act of searching and hunting for food.
baleen whale A whale with baleen in its mouth instead of teeth. There are 11 species of baleen whales; three examples are blue whale, humpback whale, and gray whale. Also called a mysticete.	harbor seal A true seal with a spotted coat, commonly found in coastal waters of the northern hemisphere. See <i>true seal</i> definition for characteristics.
blind A shelter used for observing or hunting animals.	haulout Areas on land or ice where pinnipeds (seals, sea lions and walruses) can temporarily leave the water to rest.
blubber A thick layer of fat underneath the skin of marine mammals that provides insulation from the cold and a source of energy when food supplies are low.	hemoglobin The protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen. Similar to myoglobin in muscles.
cetacean A marine mammal of the order Cetacea, which includes whales, dolphins, and porpoises.	insulate To prevent the transfer of heat.
cold-blooded Having a body temperature that is dependent on the surrounding environment. A cold-blooded animal is hot when its environment is hot and cold when its environment is cold.	Laaqudaâ Unangam word for northern fur seal.
conservation The act of protecting or preserving natural resources in order to prevent depletion or loss.	Laaqudaâx Unangam word for northern fur seal pup. Note that the last syllable is longer than the word for northern fur seal.
eared seal A pinniped of the family Otariidae, which includes sea lions and fur seals. Unique characteristics include an external ear flap and flexible hindflippers that can be rotated forward under the body allowing the animal to walk on all four when on land.	latitude or line of latitude Imaginary line that runs east to west around the globe parallel to the equator. A latitude line measures the distance north or south of the equator.
ecosystem A community of living organisms and their environment, and the interactions between the two.	longitude or line of latitude Imaginary line that runs from the North Pole to the South Pole. It measures distances east and west from a base longitude line or prime meridian.
equator The line of latitude that is an equal distance from the North Pole and the South Pole, designated as 0° latitude.	mammal Warm-blooded vertebrate that has hair or fur, gives birth to live offspring, and produces milk to nurse its offspring.
	midden A mound or deposit containing shells, animal bones and other trash that indicates the presence of humans.
	migration The long distance movement of animals on a seasonal basis.
	molt To shed old fur and grow new fur.
	mortality Death.
	myoglobin The protein in muscle that carries oxygen. Similar to hemoglobin in blood.

NOAA An abbreviation for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a federal government agency in the Department of Commerce, created in 1970. NOAA scientists conduct research on the world's oceans and atmosphere.

northern fur seal A pinniped with ear flaps (an “eared seal”), long front flippers, the ability to walk on all four flippers on land, and with dense underfur. Northern fur seals are found in the North Pacific Ocean, the Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk.

northern fur seal: adult female A female northern fur seal that is old enough to have pups. Usually three years or older.

northern fur seal: adult male A male northern fur seal that is old enough to mate. Usually seven years or older.

northern fur seal: breeding male An adult male who defends a territory on the rookery containing females. Usually nine years or older.

northern fur seal: idle male An adult male who may hold a territory on the rookery but does not hold females on the territory.

northern fur seal: juvenile A northern fur seal from December of its birth year until it is old enough to mate.

northern fur seal: pup A northern fur seal from birth to December of its birth year.

odobenid Scientific name for walrus.

otariid (Otariidae) Scientific name for an eared seal such as a northern fur seal or Steller's sea lion.

otolith Otoliths or “earstones” are found in the heads of all fishes except sharks, rays, and lampreys. The otolith of each fish species has a distinctive shape. Scientists use otolith shape to identify the species of fish eaten by seals and sea lions.

pelage Fur, hair, or wool of a mammal.

pelagic Relating to, or living in, the open ocean or seas.

philopatry When an animal returns to the site where it was born, to breed or give birth.

phocid (Phocidae) Scientific name for a true seal such as a harbor seal.

phytoplankton Tiny plants that form the beginning of the food chain for aquatic animals.

pinniped Semi-aquatic marine mammals; pinnipeds leave the water to rest, molt, and reproduce. Pinniped is Latin for “fin-foot.” Seals, sea lions and walrus are all pinnipeds.

plankton Tiny plants and animals that live in the water and float with currents. Most plankton can only be seen with a magnifying glass or microscope.

population A group of organisms that live in the same place at the same time.

prey An animal hunted and eaten for food.

Pribilof Islands A group of four volcanic islands in the Bering Sea. The Pribilof Islands are home to the largest population of northern fur seals in the world, as well as large seabird rookeries.

prime meridian A line of longitude defined to be 0°.

pup wad A group of northern fur seal pups on a rookery.

rookery A colony of breeding animals. A rookery can be a nesting place for birds (especially birds that nest in large groups), or breeding grounds for pinnipeds (seals, sea lions and walrus).

satellite tag Scientific instrument used to track the location of an animal in real time. The instrument sends location data through a satellite to a personal computer.

scat Bodily waste discharged from animals; also called stool, feces, or poop.

sea lion A pinniped with external ear flaps, long front flippers, the ability to walk on all four flippers on land, and with no dense underfur. Sea lions and fur seals make up the “eared seal” group of pinnipeds.

seal see definition for true seal

sirenian Manatees and dugongs. Marine mammals found in warm water that only eat seagrass and aquatic vegetation.

site fidelity Returning to the same area each year.

snout The part of an animal's face that projects forward and includes nose, mouth and jaws.

subsistence hunt Harvesting of wildlife by indigenous people for consumption and traditional or cultural requirements.

toothed whale A whale with teeth, instead of baleen. Also called odontocete.

topography The physical or natural features of an area.

Tropic of Cancer An imaginary latitude line that lies approximately 23.5° north of the equator. It is the circle of latitude on the earth that marks the most northerly position at which the sun may appear directly overhead.

Tropic of Capricorn An imaginary line that lies approximately 23.5° south of the equator. It marks the most southerly latitude on the earth at which the sun can be directly overhead.

true seal A pinniped of the family Phocidae, which includes harbor seals and spotted seals. Unique characteristics include no external ear flaps and a sleek, streamlined, sausage-shaped body. A true seal cannot walk on all four flippers, but moves on its stomach when on land or ice. Other names include seal, hair seal or phocid seal.

Unangam (adjective) Proper adjective, for example “the Unangam People” or “Unangam culture.” http://alaska.si.edu/culture_unangan.asp?continue=1

Unangan (noun) Name the people of the Aleutian and Commander Islands use for themselves. Eastern dialect. http://alaska.si.edu/culture_unangan.asp?continue=1

Unangas Name the people of the Aleutian and Commander Islands use for themselves in the western Aleutian dialect.

vertebra (plural: vertebrae) An individual bone in the backbone or vertebral column. If you run your finger down your backbone, you will feel bumps. Each of these bumps is from one vertebra

vocalizations The sounds that an animal makes fur seals use calls to communicate with other fur seals.

walrus (*Odobenus rosemarus*) A pinniped of the family Odobenidae. Unique characteristics include no external ear flaps, large tusks, thick leathery hide, and hindflippers that rotate forward underneath the body allowing the animal to walk on all fours when on land. Its scientific name translates to “tooth-walking sea horse.”

warm-blooded Having a high constant body temperature independent of the surrounding temperature

zooplankton Animal plankton (tiny animals) that live in the water. Zooplankton are microscopic animals that eat other plankton (both plant and animal plankton).