

Informational
Text

Babysitters for Seals

by Kathy Furgang



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STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Reread

Skill: Main Topic/Key
Details

Phonics

long *a*, long *e*, long *i*,
long *o*

Content Standards

Science

Earth Science

High-Frequency Words

come, help, look, too

Word count: 204**

Photography Credit: Cover Robin Lindsey

**The total word count is based on words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in captions, labels, diagrams, charts, and sidebars are not included.



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Why Do Seals Need Help? 2

How Do People Help? 5



Many harbor seals live on the Pacific coast.



Why Do Seals Need Help?

Harbor seals live in many oceans around the world. They stay close to land. They spend half their lives in water. They spend the other half on land, resting.

Seal pups cannot find food for themselves.



The seals also come onto land to have babies, called pups. The mother seals must look for food for their pups. They leave their pups on shore until they return with food.

Seal pups wait for their mothers.



Seal pups face dangers on shore. Seals have flippers instead of feet. They cannot run away from animals that want to catch them. Bears, eagles, and dogs are a danger to the pups. Humans can be a danger too!

The seals come to shore onto busy beaches.



How Do People Help?

The seal pups also get help from humans. On some beaches, people watch the pups. They are babysitters for the seal pups! They guard the seal pups day and night.

It is against the law for people to touch the seals.



People must guard the pups from a distance. If they get too close, the pups will become afraid. The mother seals may also be afraid to return to their pups.

Pupping season last through the summer.



The seal sitters make sure that people stay away from the baby seals. They watch that dogs and other animals do not bother the pups.

Growing pups need to save their energy.



The pups rest until their mothers come back. Then they may return to the water. But they may be back again to rest on the shore.



We Like Wildlife

Tell your partner how people help seals. Why is it important to care for wildlife?



I Can Help!

Draw a picture showing something you would do to help wildlife. Write about your picture.



Protect Our Earth

GR H • Benchmark 14 • Lexile 300L

Grade K • Unit 10 Week 3

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