



SeaWorld/Busch Gardens Baby Animals

4-8 Classroom Activities

Graphing Growth

OBJECTIVE

Given the known weights of a killer whale at various ages, the student will be able to graph these weights then use this information to estimate a killer whale's weight at other ages.

ACTION

1. Introduce activity with a discussion on growth rates of baby animals. Compare humans (how much did students weigh at birth? in first grade? now?) to other mammals, birds, reptiles. How does life span relate to growth rate (generally, the longer the life span, the more slowly the growth from birth to adult weight.)
2. Copy and distribute the Graphing Growth funsheet to your students.
3. Students follow directions on the funsheet and estimate answers.
4. When finished, students share answers with classmates.

ANSWERS

1. about 700 lb.
2. about 3,150 lb.
3. about 18 months
4. about 30 months

MATERIALS

For each student:

- copies of the graphing growth funsheet
- pencils
- rulers

Name _____

Graphing Growth

The table below lists average ages and weights for the killer whale (*Orcinus orca*).

Using the grid below, do the following:

Plot killer whale ages on the x-axis, and weights on the y-axis. Connect each data point on the graph. Answer the following questions on the back of this paper.

1. Estimate how much a killer whale will weigh when it's six months old.
2. Estimate how much a killer whale will weigh when it's four years old.
3. Estimate how old a killer whale is when it weighs 1,400 lb.
4. Estimate how old a killer whale is when it weighs 2,300 lb.

age (months)	birth	3	9	12	24	36	60
weight (pounds)	350	530	890	1,070	1,800	2,750	3,500





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Are You My Pup?

OBJECTIVE

The student will be able to demonstrate how sea lions use their senses of smell and hearing to locate their pups.

ACTION

1. Before the activity, prepare the scented film containers. Make two of each aromatic. For peanut butter, put a small amount of peanut butter in two containers, add a cotton ball, close the lid, and label the bottom. For the extracts, place cotton balls in the film containers and saturate the cotton ball with the extract liquid. Close lids and label bottoms. Repeat for the two perfumes. When finished, you should have 13 pairs of scent containers. Separate scents and noisemakers into two groups.
2. Begin activity by reviewing background information about sea lion rookeries. Imagine what a rookery would look and sound like. Noisy? Quiet? Crowded?
3. Divide the class into two groups with each side having 13 students. Give each student one scent container and one noisemaker. (The student's matching pair must be in the other group.) Ask students to smell their "scent" and make their noise. One group will be "pups" and the other "mothers".
4. In an open area of the room, blindfold students and ask them to slowly walk around the area trying to find their mother or their pup. When pairs meet, they should smell their containers to make sure they've found the right partner.
5. After all students have found their partners, review the activity. Have students describe their experiences. Did they find it difficult? Easy? Is there an easier, faster way?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

When breeding and giving birth, sea lions gather in large groups called rookeries along sandy beaches. Mother sea lions leave their pups ashore while they forage for food in the ocean.

When mothers return, the mother and pup must find each other. Instead of just looking for each other, mothers and pups recognize voices (vocalizations) and smell.

MATERIALS

Per 26 students:

- 26 plastic film containers with lids
- 26 cotton balls
- 13 pairs of noisemakers (kazoos, whistles, party favors, etc.)
- 10 extracts (chocolate, strawberry, mint, lemon, anise, coconut, almond, maple, cherry, vanilla, or others)
- peanut butter
- 2 perfumes that smell different
- 26 blindfolds



California sea lion mother and pup recognize each other's smell and voice.