

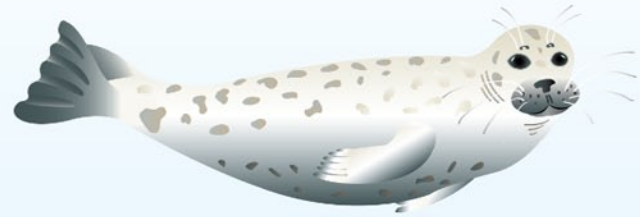


ANIMAL FACTS

Glacier Bay



Harbor Seal



Scientific Name: *Phoca vitulina*



Fun Fact: The pups of this *species* swim and dive within hours of being born. Adults can hold their breath under water for 35 minutes. They are fin-footed *mammals* called *pinnipeds*—pinna for wing, ped for foot.



Food: They may travel up to 31 miles (50 kilometers) at sea in search of feeding grounds and swim up rivers. They eat fish, octopus, squid, and seabirds.



Activity: They spend their time half on land, half in water. They can dive to 1,500 feet (457 meters). They may sleep in the water in a resting position called bottling with noses in the air. After breeding in the summer, they *molt*—shed their furry coats—for one to two months.



Territory: They are found in the coastal North Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the Baltic and North Seas. The Marine Mammal Act of 1972 made it illegal, without a permit, to capture these seals.





ANIMAL FACTS



Glacier Bay



Humpback Whale



Scientific Name: *Megaptera novaeangliae*



Fun Fact: Full-grown, these whales are from 39 to 52 feet (12 to 16 meters) long and weigh about 79,000 pounds (36,000 kilograms). They may live for 50 years.



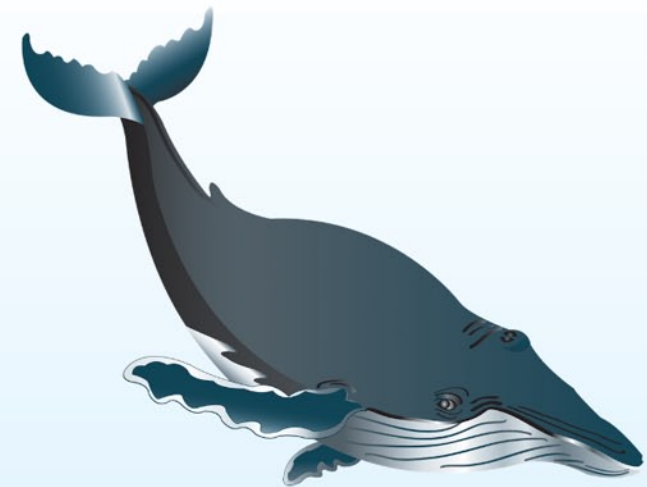
Food: They cooperate in groups using a bubble net method to feed on krill and small fish. The whales blow bubbles while swimming in circles below a school of herring, then swim up with their mouths open to gulp the prey. They do not eat during winter, but live off their reserves of body fat.



Activity: The males vocalize with a 10- to 20-minute song repeated for hours. Athletic animals, they breach—throw themselves out of the water and land backwards with a splash. Babies nurse for six months on their mother's pink, 50% fat milk.



Territory: They live in oceans around the world, migrating yearly up to 16,000 miles (25,000 kilometers). They summer in polar waters, then swim to **tropical** or **subtropical** waters to breed and give birth in winter.





ANIMAL FACTS

Glacier Bay



Humpback Spout



Fun Fact: Shapes of whale spouts differ from *species* to *species*. This whale's spout is an angled funnel topped by a large bushy shape. Whales are *mammals* and warm-blooded. They can swim in cold water because the fatty blubber beneath their skin keeps them warm. They can dive deep into the ocean and travel long distances under water because they can hold their breath for 30 minutes. Eventually, they must come up to breathe air. When surfacing, a humpback whale releases water and steam through two blowholes in its head. This burst of water and air is called a spout. Spouts burst forth as fast as 250 miles (402 kilometers) per hour, arc as high as 13 feet (3.9 meters), and can be seen as far as 1.2 miles (2 kilometers) away. When underwater, flaps of muscle cover the blowholes and seal them to prevent ocean water from getting into the whale's air passage, which leads to the whale's throat and lungs.





ANIMAL FACTS

Glacier Bay



Glacier Calving



Fun Fact: Large chunks of ice breaking off from a glacier make thunderous rumblings. **Calving** is caused by crevasses deep in the ice, rising sea temperatures, earthquakes, and tidal events. Glaciers have been in the Glacier Bay area for 7 million years, but today's are remnants of the Little Ice Age from 4,000 years ago and began melting 250 years ago. Most glaciers here are in retreat, but some are advancing. When snowfall in the mountains exceeds snowmelt, snowpack builds and compresses snowflakes to granular snow. The round ice grains become solid ice. Individual ice crystals in a glacier can be as large as a football. Near the bottom of a glacier, tremendous pressure due to **gravity** causes **friction** between the ice and the bedrock, allowing the ice to slide and crash into the sea. If you're in a boat near a glacier calving, watch out! The falling ice creates waves that can swamp boats, and Glacier Bay's cold water is dangerous for humans.





ANIMAL FACTS

Glacier Bay



Humpback Splash



Fun Fact: Whales swim by moving their tails up and down. That's why a whale's tail is horizontal to the body. Each half of a whale's tail is called a fluke. These acrobatic animals, who live in groups called pods, communicate with one another in many ways. They have front fins called pectoral fins, which they use to stroke the body of another whale during mating and courtship. They make whistles, squeaks, and clicks, and they use their tails, causing great splashes when they dive down into the water after surfacing. They are known for slapping their tails on the water. A whale's slap tells other whales of his position or signals aggressive behavior. Sometimes whales splash with their tails just to stir up turbulence on the water, and no one knows exactly why they do this. Their splashing and slapping can be heard from far away.





ANIMAL FACTS



Glacier Bay

Cold Rain



Fun Fact: Glacier Bay, a coastal *ecological* community, depends on water. Ice fields, rivers, streams, and tidewater glaciers make this a special place for humans to visit and animals to inhabit. The area receives an average of 228 days of *precipitation* with over 70 inches (177 centimeters) of rain total per year. It averages 14 feet (4.26 meters) of snow a year. The most snowfall ever recorded was 100 feet deep. Summers are temperate, averaging 55 ° fahrenheit (12.7 ° celsius). Winter averages are 25 ° fahrenheit (-3.8 ° celsius), but can dip as low as -10 ° fahrenheit (-23 ° celsius)! When temperatures are below freezing all year, glaciers advance. Cold rain sounds distinctively different than warm rain. In fact, sounds of rain vary from climate to climate. Sounds depend on the type of surface the water hits and also the surrounding environment. Glacier Bay has lots of reflective surfaces— water, ice, rock—and mountains make an acoustic bowl. There isn't thick *foliage* to absorb the sound.





ANIMAL FACTS



Glacier Bay



Canada Goose



Scientific Name: *Branta canadensis*



Fun Fact: The wild geese of this *species* are known for their V formation in the sky during *migration*. In water, adults lead their *goslings* in a line, flapping and hissing to chase away adults not part of their group or *crèche*. The oldest known wild Canada Goose was 30 years old.



Food: Primarily *herbivores* fond of grain and *vegetation*, they also eat small insects and fish.



Activity: They are *diurnal*. The calls of wild Canada Geese flying signal spring and autumn seasonal transitions. A target for hunters, this goose has meat that is sinewy and dense (some say inedible) from long flights and elevated stress hormones, which assist *migration*.



Territory: Native to arctic and temperate regions of North America, these geese are also found in northern Europe. Wild Canada Geese tend to be smaller in more northward areas, and darker westward.





ANIMAL FACTS

Glacier Bay



Bald Eagle



Scientific Name: *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*



Fun Fact: This is the national bird of the United States, protected by law. It isn't bald; the name comes from *piebald*, meaning black and white. The Bald Eagle builds the largest nest of any North American bird—as big as 13 feet deep, 8.2 feet wide (4 by 2.5 meters), and heavy as a one-ton car, which is what a Volkswagen Bug weighs!



Food: Bald Eagles swoop to catch fish with powerful talons and may pair to hunt birds and small *mammals*. One eagle distracts, while the other ambushes the prey, holding tightly with two front toes and piercing with the hind toe.



Activity: They are *diurnal*. Their gripping power, measured in pounds per square inch, is ten times greater than a human's. Healthy adult bald eagles are *apex predators*. Not preyed on, they top the food chain!



Territory: Their range covers most of Canada, the continental United States, and northern Mexico.





ANIMAL FACTS

Glacier Bay



Glaucous Gulls



Scientific Name: *Larus hyperboreus*



Fun Fact: Known for vocalizations which sound like deep, raucous laughter, these huge coastal and cliff-dwelling gulls range from 22 to 30 inches (59 to 76 centimeters) long with a wingspan up to 67 inches (170 centimeters)—wider than an average American woman is tall.



Food: They are **omnivores**. They hunt and eat fish, insects, mollusks, starfish, small birds, small **mammals**, as well as carrion, eggs, seeds, berries, grain—and they'll snatch your lunch! It's said that these gulls are capable of swallowing a starling (bird) in one gulp.



Activity: They are **diurnal**. They build their nests on cliffs and line them with moss and grass.



Territory: They migrate from the North Atlantic and North Pacific Oceans in winter as far south as the British Isles and northern United States, also on the Great Lakes.





ANIMAL FACTS

Glacier Bay



Barrows Goldeneye



Scientific Name: *Bucephala islandica*



Fun Fact: This duck was named after Sir John Barrow, Englishman, Secretary to the Admiralty, who promoted Arctic exploration in the 1800s.



Food: It dives to eat aquatic insects, crustaceans, small fish, fish eggs and weeds found in freshwater **habitats**, and mollusks (especially blue mussels), seastars, and marine worms found in marine **habitats**.



Activity: These ducks are **migratory**. They winter in protected coastal waters and summer inland. They like to dive, often in whole groups at the same time.



Territory: Flocks of Barrow's Goldeneyes are found from southern Alaska along the west coast of the United States to central California near the Pacific Ocean and inland waters. They nest in tree cavities and in protected places or burrows on the ground.





ANIMAL FACTS

Glacier Bay



Steller Sea Lion



Scientific Name: *Eumetopias jubatus*



Fun Fact: They were named in 1741 by German explorer Georg Steller, the first non-native to set foot on Alaskan soil. In the 19th century, people bought the whiskers of these sea lions for a penny to use as pipe cleaners. Males have thick coarse manes and may weigh 2,500 pounds (1136 kilograms)—more than a small car! In the United States, Canada, and Russia, it is illegal to kill these animals.



Food: Skilled at catching prey, these sea lions eat many types of fishes, bivalves, squid, and octopus.



Activity: They travel long distances in a season and dive to 1300 feet (400 meters). At sea, they gather in large rafts near land—hauling out for rest, molting, mating, and pupping.



Territory: They prefer colder temperate to subarctic waters of the North Pacific Ocean. They claim gravel or sand beaches, ledges, and rocky reefs for their haul outs and rookeries, where they breed.

