

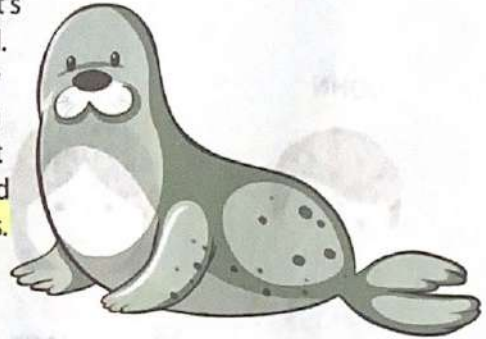
# READING COMPREHENSION



1 Read the text and answers the questions.

## WORD'S LARGEST SEAL

In the freezing ocean waters of Antarctica, the planet's **largest** seals make their home in a frozen world. These giants are southern elephant seals, and they can grow as long as the **length** of a car and weigh as much as two cars combined. The name "elephant seal" comes from both the males' **enormous** size and from their giant trunk-like nose, called a **proboscis**. Females do not have a **proboscis** and they are much smaller.



A thick layer of **blubber** keeps southern elephant seals warm in their icy habitat. The seals are **clumsy** on land, but in water they're graceful swimmers and incredible divers. They can easily dive 1,000 to 4,000 feet to hunt for squid, octopus, and various kinds of fish. Elephant seals are able to stay underwater for 20 minutes or more. The longest underwater session researchers observed is an amazing two hours! When they return to the surface to breathe, it's only for a few minutes. Then they dive again.

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While elephant seals spend most of their time swimming, they also **gather** on beaches in groups called colonies. One reason they come to land is to give birth and breed. Males arrive before females. They battle for dominance, deciding who will have large **harems** of females. Raising their **enormous** bodies, the males inflate their snouts and bellow. Usually these confrontations end quickly.

However, sometimes only a physical battle can settle the matter. These fights can be bloody, but permanent injury is rare. Females arriving on land give birth to a single pup they've been **carrying** since the previous year.

Newborns weigh about 90 **pounds**. The mother nurses her pup for a little over three weeks. After this, she breeds with a dominant male and then returns to the sea to **feed**. Her pup now weighs well over

200 **pounds** and is on its own. If it survives, it too will enter the sea **within** a couple of months. A second reason elephant seals come to land is to molt. When they molt, they shed old skin and fur and new skin and fur **grows**. A smaller species, the northern elephant seal, lives in the Pacific Ocean, dispersed from Baja, California to Alaska. Both **northern** and southern elephant seals were once hunted **nearly** to extinction. However, under legal protections both have made incredible comebacks.

2 Based on the information you just read, describe how the movements of an elephant seal are different on land than underwater.

They can easily dive 1,000 to 4,000 feet for hunt of squid and the able to stay 20 minutes or more

3 Why do male elephant seals reach land before females during the breeding season?

A second reason elephant seals come to land is to molt when they molt they shed old skin and fur and new skin grows

4 How does an elephant seal get its food? What foods are part of the diet of an elephant seal?

Squid, octopus and kinds of fish

5 Are elephant seals going extinct today? Why or why not?

~~They~~ They were hunted but are now under legal protection

largest: mas grande

Length: Largo

~~Ena~~

Enormous: Enorme

Proboscis: Proboscide

Blubber: Grasa de ballena

clumsy: Torpe

Gather: Recolectar

Hasems: Hasenes

Carrying: Que lleva

Pounds: Libras

feed: Alimentacion

Grows: Crece

Northern: Norteño

Nearly: por poca