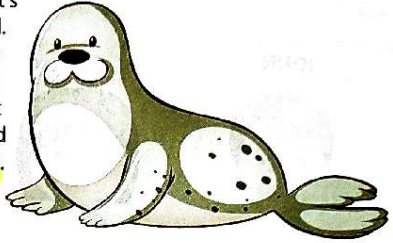




1 Read the text and answers the questions.

## WORDL'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.

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.

(Squid octopus and more fish)

\* The Seals are clumsy on land but in the water they're grace full swimmers and incredible divers. One reason they come to land is to give birth and breed males arrive before females. A second reason elephant seals come to land is to molt.

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

To gain Territory

They battle for dominance deciding who will have large harems of females.

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

elephant seals feed in deep water and supposedly eat squid and fish including small sharks and rays

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

(because they already put a law) However under legal protections both have incredible comebacks. They are still on the verge of extinction, but it's about protecting them as much as possible

04/15/2021

Freezing: Congelacion

Seals: focas

Males: machos

Trunk-like: Como un tronco

Proboscis: = trompa del elefante.

blubber: grasa de ballena

Graceful: agraciado

Surface: Superficie

while: mientras

dominance: dominio

physical: fisico

However: Sin embargo

compartments: reparticiones

breed: raza

harems: Harenes

Words's  
Vocabulary  
Jargons  
Seal.