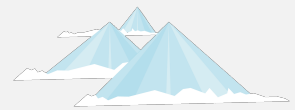
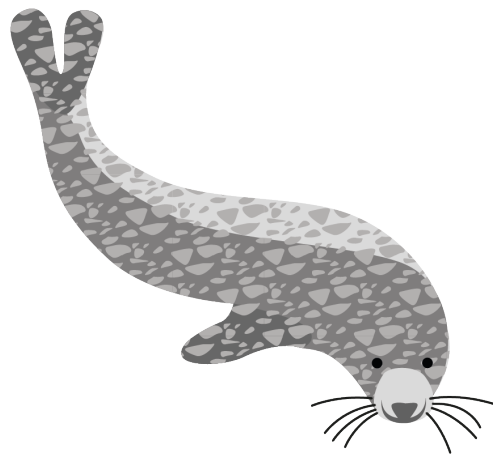


## Antarctic Habitats: The Leopard Seal

Copy the image of the seal below and add some features of its habitat (where it lives).  
You can copy the ones in the column to add to your drawing or research your own to add.





## Teacher Notes

### An Introduction to Climate Change

Climate change can be defined as changes in temperature, rainfall and other weather conditions on our planet, over a long period of time. Though changes in climate are common, in the past 150 years we have seen temperatures increasing much more quickly than they ever have before. This is caused by excess greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere. Human activity such as burning fossil fuels, driving cars and buses and cutting down trees all emit greenhouse gases. Increased greenhouse gases leads to higher temperatures which cause ice caps to melt. When ice caps melt, it has an effect on the whole world!

However, for leopard seals in particular climate change can have big impacts. The leopard seal lives in Antarctica and lives on the sea ice and in the icy waters. The seals have a thick layer of fat, called blubber, that helps keep them warm when they plunge into the water. Sea ice is important for leopard seals to rest in between hunts, hide from their one predator the killer whale and is also used when the seals give birth. If more sea ice melts, leopard seal populations will be forced to adapt. Furthermore, krill, their most abundant food source, relies on sea ice. Without it, krill populations will decline drastically and leopard seal populations may have to find an alternative food source, or else their populations will diminish, ultimately having an impact on the whole food chain.

### Fast Seal Facts

- Leopard Seals eat a diet of mostly penguins, fish, squid and krill.
- When hunting penguins, the seal will submerge itself almost completely in the icy waters and wait for penguins to jump in. When they do, they attack the penguins by the feet first and pull them deep underwater!
- Leopard seals are apex predators and only have one natural predator themselves, the killer whale.
- Leopard seals have a mouth that naturally curves upwards, so it looks like they are always smiling!

### Key Questions

- Where do leopard seals live? Can you find this place on a map or globe?
- What do you know about leopard seals already?
- How are seals adapted to live in a cold environment?
- What other wildlife is found in Antarctica?
- What do you think climate change is?
- How is climate change affecting Antarctic habitats?
- How are humans making climate change worse?
- How can we help prevent climate change from getting worse?

### KS2 Themes

Cold Environments;  
Habitats; Climate Change;  
Sustainability

### Lead subject

Art

### Other subjects

Geography; Science

### Learning Objectives

To explain about habitats and recall different animals that live in Antarctica.

To understand the simple food chain.

To explore what impact climate change is having on a place and its wildlife.

### Key Vocabulary

Antarctica; climate change;  
habitat; ice; seal

### More WWW resources you may like

[Name the Arctic Animals](#)

[Poles Apart](#)

[KS2 Scheme of Work](#)

[Arctic / Antarctic Animal Comparison](#)