



Video worksheet Harbor Porpoises of Puget Sound

1. What two species of marine mammal does Pacific Mammal Research study?
2. Name one reason that collaboration between research scientists is important.
3. Name the three things that harbor porpoises do in Burrows Pass (PacMam's study site) that make it biologically important for them.
4. Describe why harbor porpoises need food more consistently than other marine mammals.
5. Researchers know that individual harbor porpoises return to the study site, what technique do they use for identification?
6. Name the two primary motivators that help shape the behavior of most animals (e.g. what do they look for/need the most?).
7. Name 2 ways that the Strait of Juan de Fuca influences the environment in Burrows Pass that benefits the organisms there.
8. Describe the timeline for harbor porpoises in the Salish Sea – when were they abundant, all but gone, and returned?
9. What factors may have influenced their disappearance and return?
10. Name three things that are recorded in the field by researchers.
11. Why was finding a land-based study site important for researching harbor porpoises?
12. What is it called when a harbor porpoise chases a fish at the surface (lunging at the surface)?
13. When researchers see harbor porpoises doing aerial behavior, what is most likely happening, and which sex (male or female) is jumping out of the water?
14. How long do porpoises live (is this shorter or longer than for dolphin species) and when do they become sexually mature?
15. Female harbor porpoises can be _____ and _____ each year (or every other year), which increases their energetic needs and thus the food that they require.
16. Why are gulls helpful when photographing harbor porpoises?
17. Name 2 differences between dolphins and porpoises.
18. How do porpoises sleep and how does this relate to the fact that they are conscious breathers?
19. How do porpoises use sound to find food? (specifically what is the term and how does it work?)
20. Harbor porpoises vocalize in the high frequency range (which we have only more recently been able to record with new technology); why is it thought that they evolved this adaptation?
21. What is the nickname for the harbor porpoise due to their loud exhalation?
22. What is the average size for a harbor porpoise?
23. A harbor porpoise is a top predator – why are animals like these more susceptible to issues like pollution, and how does it affect their health?
24. What about harbor porpoise and harbor seal ecology makes them more susceptible to what humans do on land than other marine mammals?
25. Why is it important to know more about the biology, behavior and ecology of harbor porpoises in relation to climate change and other anthropogenic (human) impacts?