

# MARINE MAMMALS OF THE ARCTIC

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION



JOIN IMMERSION IN 2009–2010 AS WE EXPLORE THE ARCTIC AND THE MARINE MAMMALS THAT CALL IT HOME.

The vast and relatively unexplored Arctic is undergoing many changes, and researchers around the globe are working with native communities to gather information on how these changes might impact marine mammals and the humans who depend on them for survival. *Marine Mammals of the Arctic* will focus on key animals such as beluga whales, ice seals, narwhals, and polar bears. Hands-on activities will introduce kids to the general biology and population dynamics of these animals. Additional activities, video clips, and interactive games will detail current threats to the animals and highlight conservation efforts. Throughout the program, kids will be encouraged to do their part to protect Arctic marine mammals and their ocean home.

## PROGRAM ELEMENTS

**Adventure Series** 8 hands-on activities/lesson plans in a stand-alone print curriculum. Professional development for youth service providers and educators will be available.

**Website** Interactive games, student projects, community features such as message boards and photo albums, ongoing coverage of field research via podcasts, blogs, news feeds, and photo galleries, and additional resources for educators.

**Live and Pre-Produced Video** A mix of video pieces tailored toward kids that will be delivered through a variety of media such as podcasts, studio shows, and live webcasts.



## PROGRAM CONTENT

### Overview of Arctic Region

- Geography, natural variations in environment, and marine mammal habitats

### Overview of Marine Mammals of the Arctic

- Adaptations, anatomy, and population dynamics
- Spotlight activities on beluga whales, ice seals, narwhals, and polar bears

### Humans in the Arctic

- Climate change, oil and gas exploration, subsistence hunting, and collaborations between Arctic natives and researchers on conservation efforts

### Research Methods

- Studying animals in the field with aerial surveys, capture and release, satellite tagging, and remote cameras, and comparative studies with animals under human care

### How Kids Can Help

- Raising awareness, organizing and participating in projects to reduce their carbon footprint, and educating others about the Arctic region and the animals living there

