

## Marine Mammal Rescue & Response: Gather the Equipment

The activities below are intended to support adults in guiding young elementary-aged youth to augment their learning from the images, stories and coloring sheet included. Visit [www.marinemammalcenter.org](http://www.marinemammalcenter.org) for more information and resources.



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Read **Snapper's Story** and show the images above to your child.

*"Snapper was a California Sea Lion rescued by the Marine Mammal Center. A member of the public called The Marine Mammal Center's hotline after spotting Snapper on a beach with a fishing hook caught on her flipper. Rescue volunteers then headed to the beach to rescue Snapper. This is an image of Snapper being rescued. Once Snapper was rescued, veterinarians removed the hook and discovered that Snapper also had a lung infection, bone infection, stomach disease, and wasn't getting enough to eat. Many marine mammals suffer the same illnesses as humans and can be treated with medicines and medical procedures just like humans. After a couple months of care at The Marine Mammal Center, Snapper was healthy once again and was released back to the ocean!"*

Share with your child that it is important that our rescue volunteers bring the proper equipment in order to rescue animals. Different types of equipment can be used depending on the species, the size of the animal, and the problem the animal is having.

Look at the coloring sheet and ask your child, **"Can you spot the equipment that was needed to rescue Snapper?"** As they color, refer to the instructions at the bottom of the coloring sheet and share more of the information below. Have your child look back to the image at the top of this page to compare and gather ideas. Encourage thoughtful discussion about their answers.

Answers and background information for thoughtful discussion:

1. **The California Sea Lion in need of rescue is found in the center of the coloring page.** Sea Lions have unique body parts compared to other species. Sea Lions are also called "eared seals". You can have the student take a look at how each animal drawing is different. You'll notice the Elephant Seal (top of page) and the Pacific Harbor Seal (bottom of page) do not have external ear flaps. Can you see the ear flaps in the picture at the top of this page?
2. **Dangerous items: plastic grocery bag and fish hooks.** Many patients become entangled or end up eating man-made objects like plastic bags and fishing hooks. One way humans can help marine mammals is by reducing or reusing plastic products. How can you reduce your use of plastic?
3. **Rescue gear: gloves and boots.** The animals The Marine Mammal Center helps are wild animals and can be aggressive towards people when startled. It is important that we keep our distance from these animals and limit our interaction with them so they remain wild for successful release back to the ocean.
4. **Rescue equipment: rescue boards.** Rescue boards are also used as shields to protect our rescue volunteers and minimize contact with the animals. Again, it is important that we keep our distance from these animals and limit our interaction so that we can return these animals back to the wild successfully.
5. **Transport equipment: crate.** Sometimes patients have to travel long and far. Carrier crates are the safest way to transport the animal. What do you wear in the car to stay safe? Just like humans wearing seatbelts, we can strap down crates in a truck so that the animal is safe and secure.



## Can you help us rescue Snapper?

1. Color the **California Sea Lion** that is in need of rescue.
2. Circle the items that could have injured or caused our patient to be sick or injured.
3. Color the gear our rescue volunteers will wear during the rescue.
4. Color the rescue equipment that will be used to block our patient from going back into the ocean.
5. Color the rescue equipment that is needed to bring our patient to The Marine Mammal Center.