

Seals in Antarctica

Discussion Questions:

- 1) How many species of seal live in Antarctica?
- 2) What is the largest species of seal inhabiting Antarctica?
- 3) How have seals adapted to their harsh environment?



Seals of Antarctica

Leopard Seal



Weddell Seal



Crabeater Seal



Antarctic Fur Seal



Southern Elephant Seal



Ross Seal

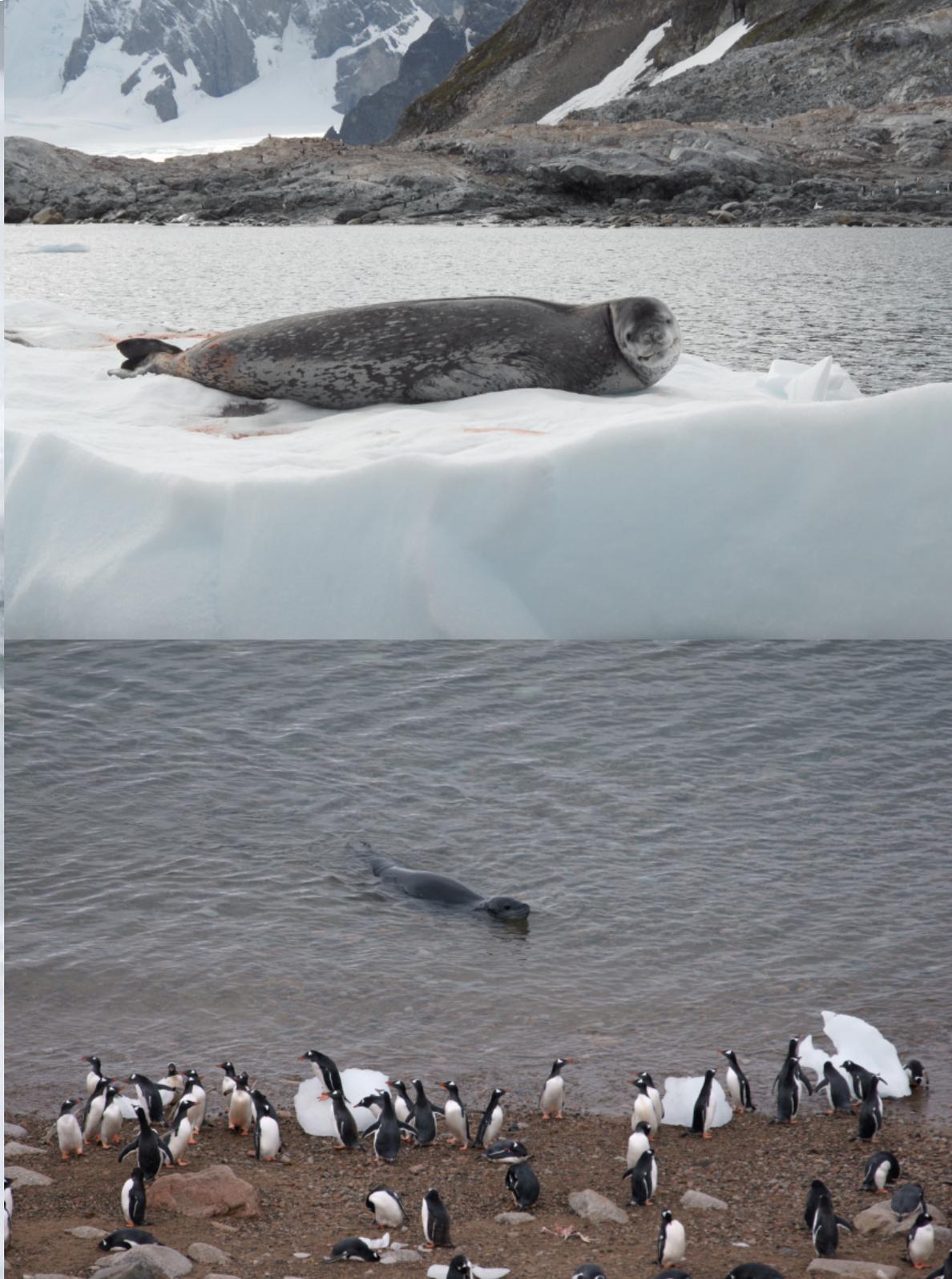


Seals have a thick layer of fat to insulate their bodies against the cold. They use their flippers and webbed feet to propel themselves through the water. They may look clumsy on land but they very agile swimmers! These Antarctic Fur Seals have ears. They are related to sea lions. Other species of seals that live in Antarctica have no visible ears.





Seals breathe air through their nostrils. They can close their nostrils when they are under the water. They can dive under the ice for long periods of time coming up to breathe through holes in the ice.



The Southern Elephant Seal is the largest species of seal that inhabit the Antarctic Region. The male grows a large trunk-like snout, making their name very apt indeed!



The Ross Seal is rarely seen. It lives on the pack ice in the Antarctic Region. It is the smallest of the six species of seal that inhabit Antarctic waters.

