

Venn Diagram of Pinnipeds

OBJECTIVE

Students will identify similarities and differences of pinnipeds in Alaska.

TIME REQUIRED

20 minutes

BACKGROUND

Pinnipeds are separated into three general groups: true seals (phocid), eared seals (otariid) and walruses (odobenid). This exercise can be done with three specific examples of each group (e.g. harbor seals, fur seals, walrus) or with characteristics of the group as a whole.

MATERIALS

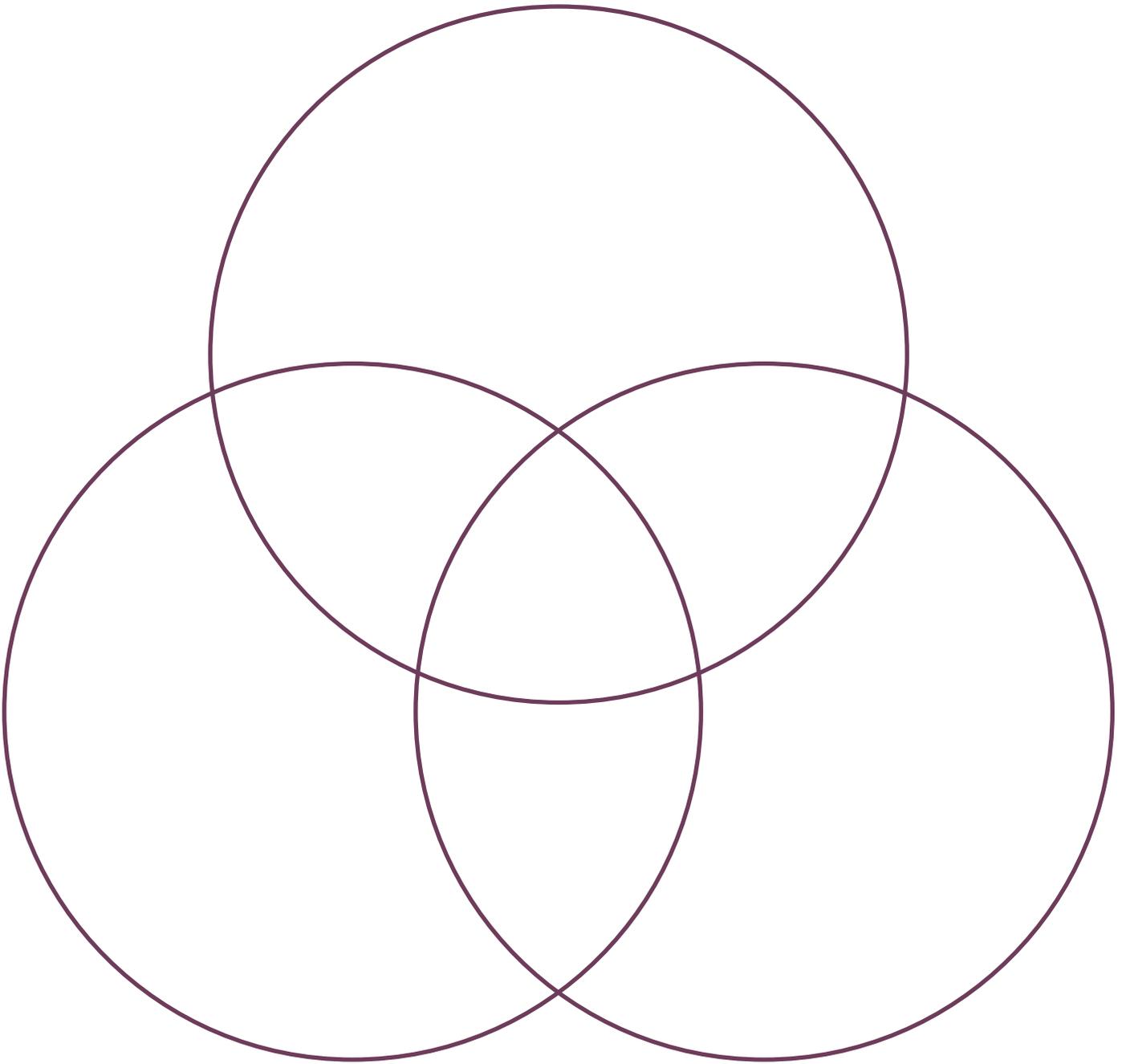
- Class summary from Activity 1.3 – Describe a pinniped
- Venn Diagram chart

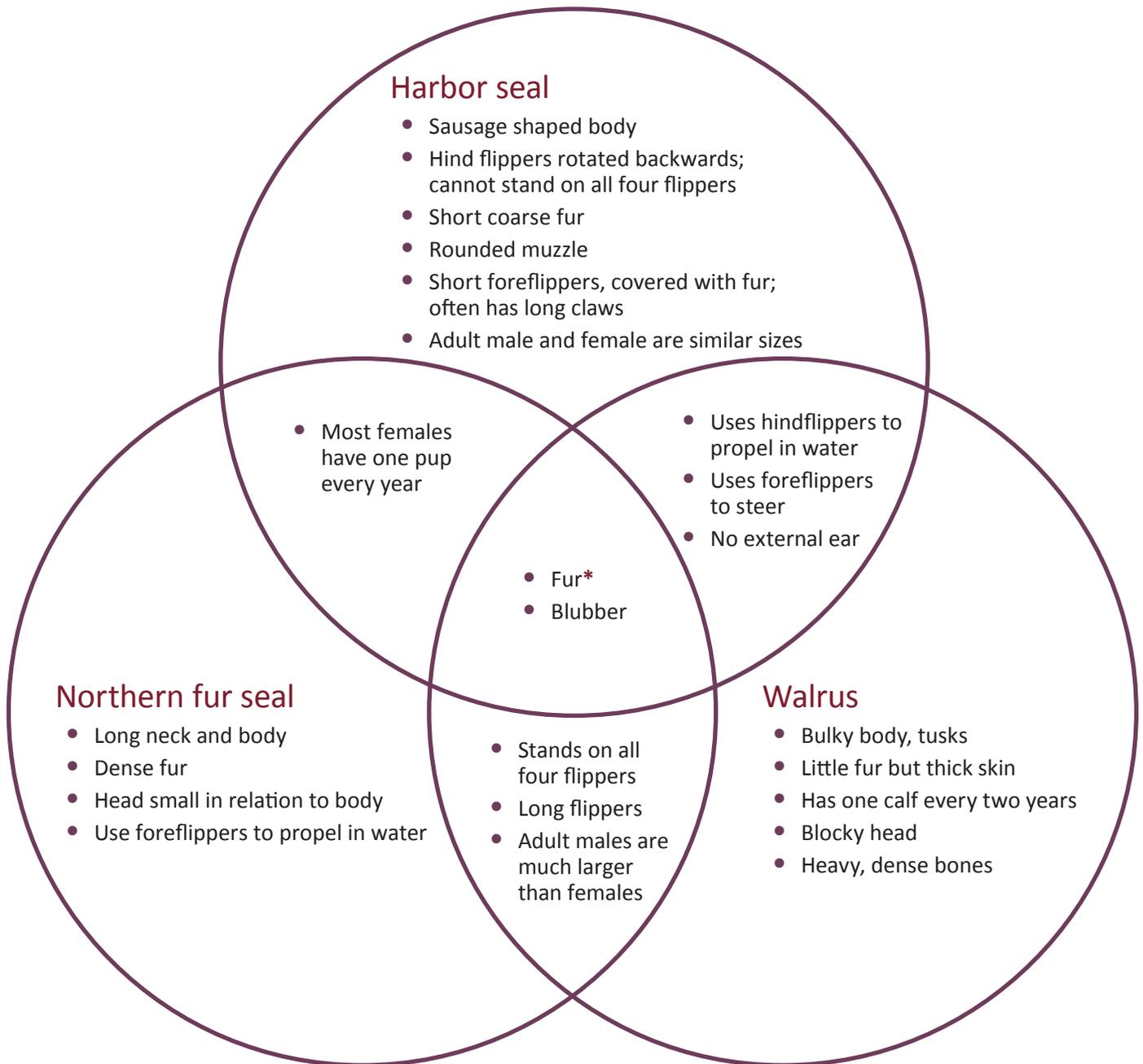
PROCEDURES

- This activity can be used as an assessment by providing the students with the characteristics and asking them to place them in the appropriate area of the Venn Diagram.
- For younger grades (K-2 or K-3) complete Worksheet 1.5.1 as a class. For older grades, the class summary from Worksheet 1.3.5 "Describe a Pinniped" can be handed out or shown on the projection screen.
 - ◆ Use descriptions of species from Activity 1.3; choose one eared seal, one true seal, and walrus.
 - ◆ Fill in the Venn diagram with the characteristics of the three pinniped groups, showing characteristics that the three groups have in common and characteristics that are unique to each group.

DISCUSSION

Discuss similarities and differences between the three groups of pinnipeds.





**Fur: True seals and sea lions have short, coarse fur. Fur seals have two layers of fur, dense underfur and outer guard fur. Walrus have very little fur.*