

Where Are Fur Seal Rookeries?

OBJECTIVE

Students will learn where northern fur seal rookeries are on a map.

Source: Peterson, R.W., LeBoeuf, B.J. and R.L. Delong 1968. Fur Seals from the Bering Sea breeding in California. *Nature* 219:899-901.

TIME REQUIRED

20 minutes

BACKGROUND

Northern fur seals breed at specific locations (rookeries) during the summer. Students will label a map showing the locations of fur seal rookeries in Russia and Alaska and a map showing locations of fur seal rookeries in the United States.

MATERIALS

- Map A (Russia and Alaska) with fur seal rookeries
- Map B (North America) with Pribilof Islands and San Miguel Island labeled

PROCEDURES

- Hand out Map 6.1.1; have the students label the map with the indicated countries, bodies of water, state and city, and rookeries. Students can color the map if desired.
- Hand out Map 6.1.2; have the students label the map with the indicated countries, bodies of water, state and city, and rookeries. Students can color the map if desired.

DISCUSSION

Are there any rookeries on the mainland?

No, they are on islands.

What might influence the location of a rookery?

Food availability during the summer, protection from storms and predators.

Why do you think that seals are so far south at San Miguel Island?

The San Miguel Island fur seal rookery was originally started in the late 1950s or early 1960s by pregnant females from the Pribilof Islands who had their pups there instead of returning to the Pribilofs. Scientists discovered the rookery in 1968.

ACTIVITY 6.1 **MAP 6.1.1**

Where are fur seal rookeries?

Map A: Russia and Alaska

Label the countries:

- Russia
- USA
- Canada

Label the state:

- Alaska

Label the bodies of water:

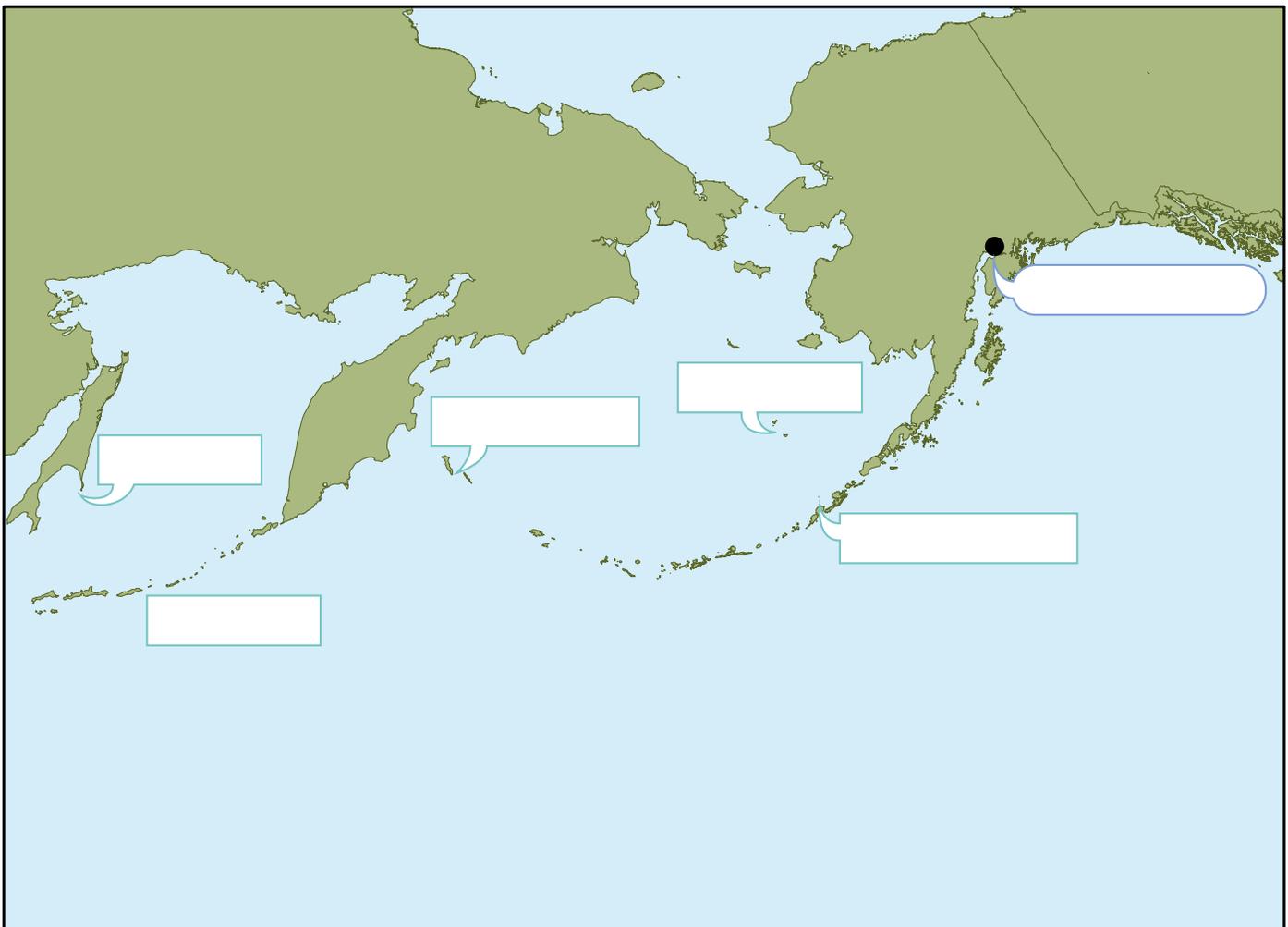
- Bering Sea
- Pacific Ocean

Label this city as a reference point:

- Anchorage

Label the rookeries (look up the locations in an atlas if you are not sure where the location is):

- Robben Island
- Commander Islands
- Kuril Islands
- Pribilof Islands
- Bogoslof Island



Map A: Russia and Alaska

Label the countries:

- Russia
- USA
- Canada

Label the state:

- Alaska

Label the bodies of water:

- Bering Sea
- Pacific Ocean

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ACTIVITY 6.1

MAP 6.1.2

Where are fur seal rookeries?

Map 6.1.2: USA

Using a globe or map as a reference, place the labels listed below on Map B.

The boxes indicate rookeries. Students will use the information presented in this activity to determine the location of the three northern fur seal rookeries located in the United States.

Label the countries:

- USA
- Canada

Label the bodies of water:

- Bering Sea
- Pacific Ocean

Label these states as reference points:

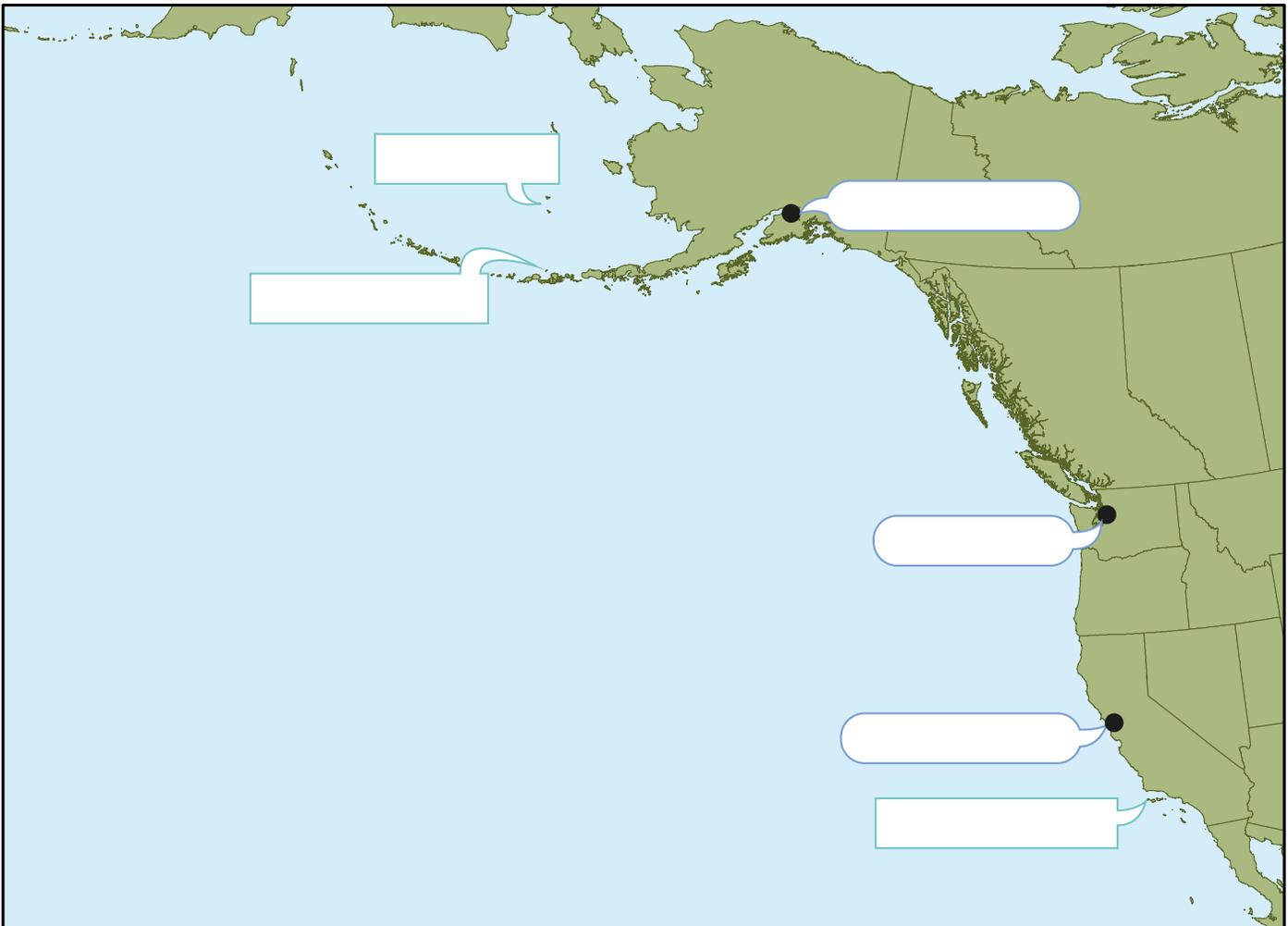
- Alaska
- Washington
- Oregon
- California

Label these cities as reference points:

- Anchorage
- Seattle
- San Francisco

Label the rookeries (look up the locations in an atlas if you are not sure where the location is):

- Pribilof Islands
- Bogoslof Island
- San Miguel Island



ACTIVITY 6.1

TEACHER KEY 6.1.2

Where are fur seal rookeries?

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Label the countries:

- USA
- Canada

Label the bodies of water:

- Bering Sea
- Pacific Ocean

Label these states as reference points:

- Alaska
- Washington
- Oregon
- California

Label these cities as reference points:

- Anchorage
- Seattle
- San Francisco

Label the rookeries (look up the locations in an atlas if you are not sure where the location is):

- Pribilof Islands
- Bogoslof Island
- San Miguel Island

