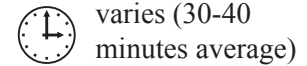


Elephant Seal Count

ACTIVITY: Counting elephant seals

GRADE LEVEL(S): 3-12th



OVERVIEW: Students count and estimate elephant seals on different beaches.

DISCIPLINES: Science, math

OBJECTIVES: Students count and record elephant seals from three different beaches, compare and contrast numbers from location to location, discover the challenges of population studies

MATERIALS:

- elephant seal rookery photos (printed or projected onto screen)
- photocopies: *Elephant Seal Count*; *Science Team Reports*
- pencils
- crayons
- calculators (OPTIONAL)

Preparation:

1. Select and make photocopies of elephant seals on the beach (if not projecting on a screen). One or two per learning group.
2. Make photocopies of *Elephant Seal Count* pages and *Science Team Reports*, one per student or one per student per photo)

WHAT TO DO:

1. Show students one or more of the photos of elephant seals on the beach. Have them guess how many seals are on the beach. How many males? How many females? How many pups or juveniles?
2. Tell the kids they'll be scientists counting seals on different beaches. Give each (or learning groups) a *Elephant Seal Count* for one of the beaches and a *Science Team Report*.
3. Have kids share the numbers from each beach. If time, total all the numbers by male, female, mothers with pups, pups without mother nearby, and juveniles.
4. Discuss the challenges of counting individual animals. Have kids brainstorm other ways of determining elephant seal numbers.

Other discussion questions:

When there are this many seals, how else could the scientists figure out the number of animals?

Why do scientists count elephant seals?

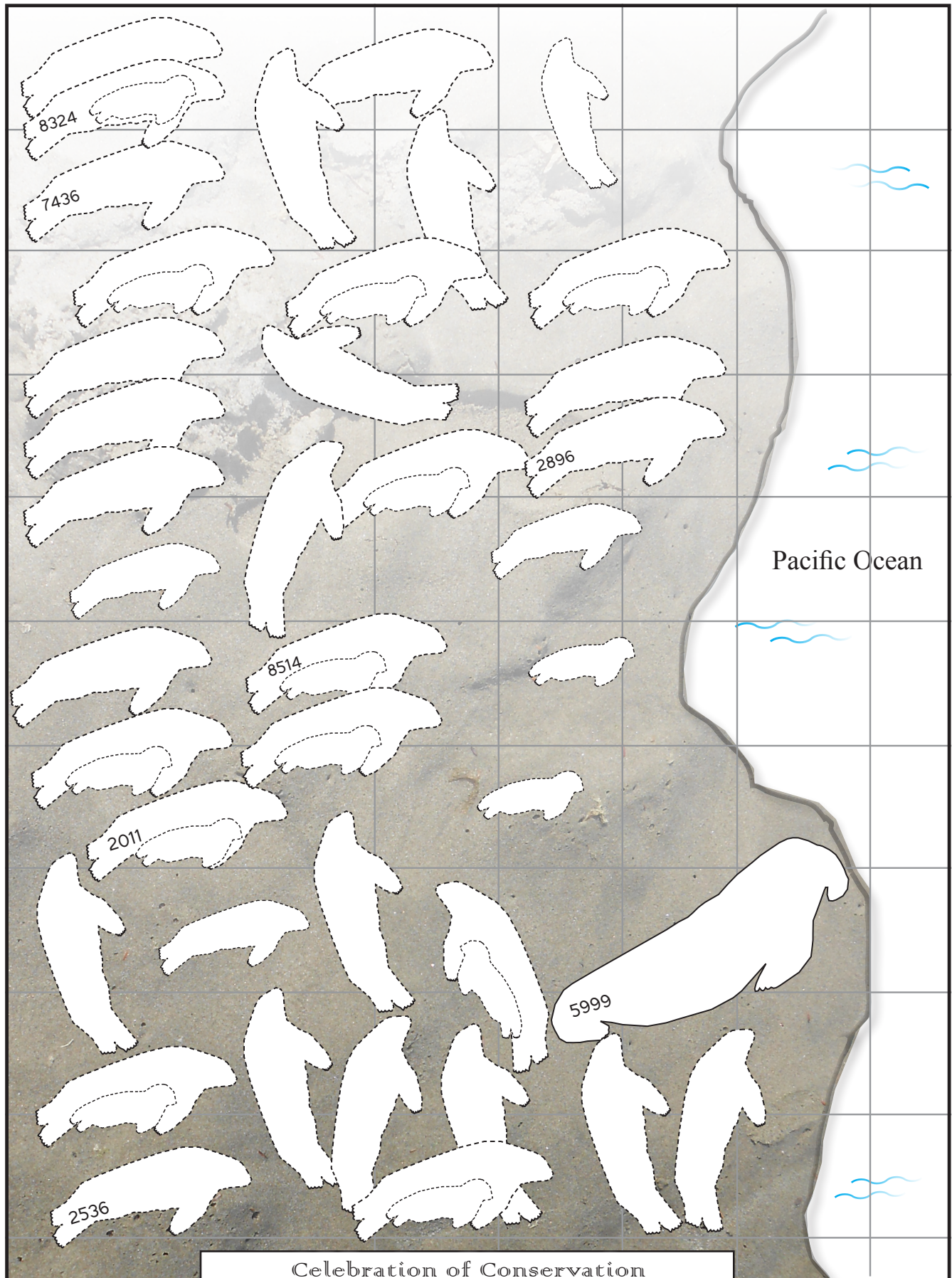
How does keeping records from year to year help scientists?

OPTIONAL IDEAS

- Have students color their beach scene and add other animals that might be on the beach or in the surf further out at sea, harbor seals, California sea lions, sharks, gray whales, seabirds and more.
- Give students a copy of Beach 4. Have students draw seals. Then create a new report.

Elephant Seal Count

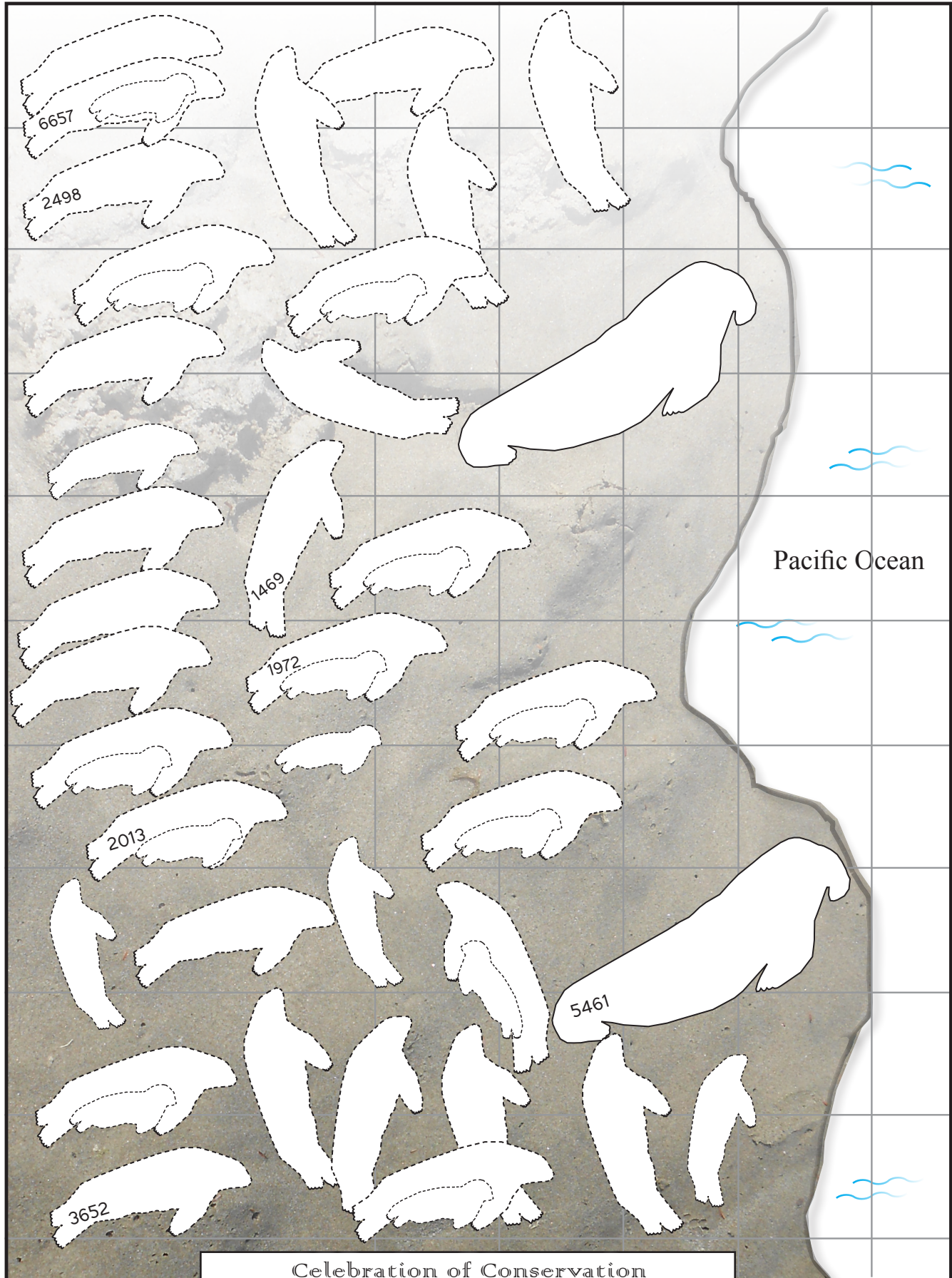
Beach #1



Celebration of Conservation
WhaleTimes Virtual Team Member Activity

Elephant Seal Count

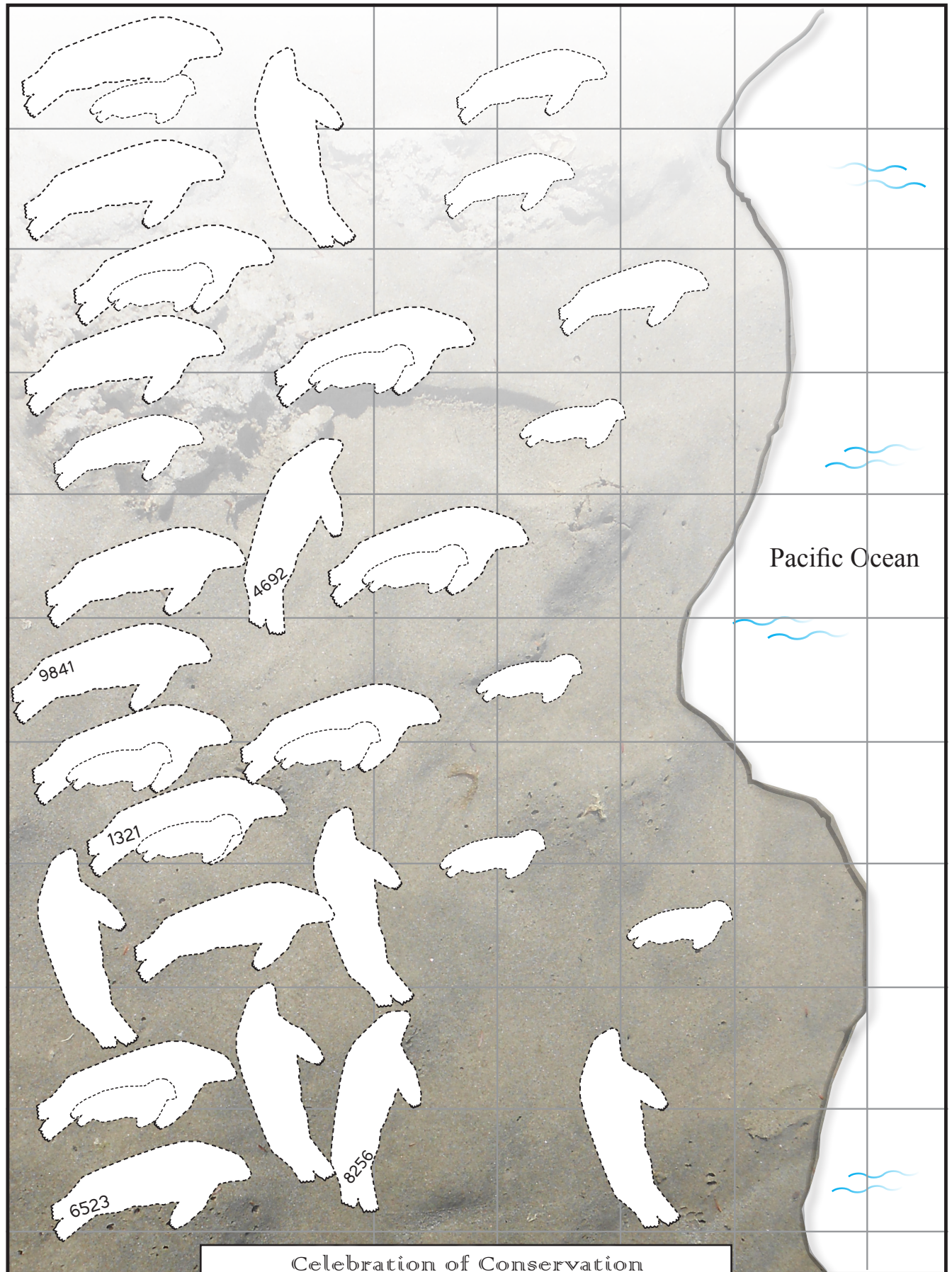
Beach #2



Celebration of Conservation
WhaleTimes Virtual Team Member Activity

Elephant Seal Count

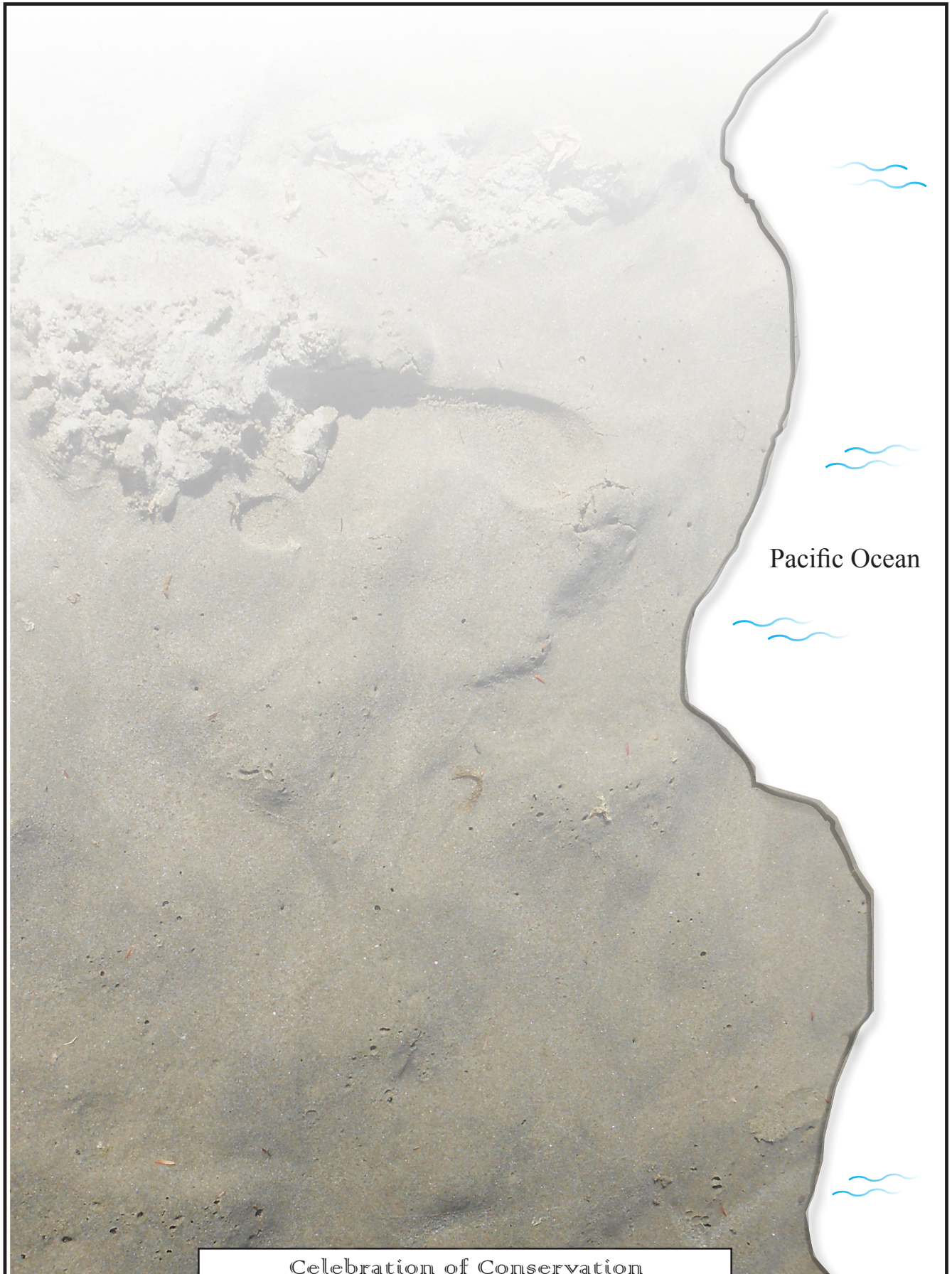
Beach #3



Celebration of Conservation
WhaleTimes Virtual Team Member Activity

Elephant Seal Count

Beach #4



Celebration of Conservation
WhaleTimes Virtual Team Member Activity