

## Science Team Report – Team Elephant Seal

ACTIVITY: Science Log



GRADE LEVEL(S): 3-8th



varies (15-30  
minutes average)

**OVERVIEW:** Students create a scientific report of observations or information shared by the Science Team through Seamails, Skype interviews, and/or photographs.

**DISCIPLINES:** Science, math, language arts, visual arts

**OBJECTIVES:** Students learn to record animal counts, weather updates, behavioral observations, questions, opinions, inferences, and reflections of the animals, the researchers, and research

**MATERIALS:** Photocopies of “Science Team Report -Team Elephant Seal” form  
Elephant seal rookery photos (either photocopies or projected onto a screen)  
Pencils or pens  
Crayons, child-safe markers, and color pencils

**OPTIONAL:**

25 x 30 inch poster paper (one sheet per Seemail) and markers

### WHAT TO DO:

Teachers may choose to fill out the report as a class or have individual students or cooperative learning groups fill it out. Fill out after reading Seamails from Team Elephant Seal, reviewing photographs of elephant seal rookeries, or after creating art.

Optional: Use white writing surface, or poster paper (25 inch x 30 inch) to create poster-sized report so class can complete logs together and see throughout the day.

### Record Keeping:

1. Tell students, as they discover the world of elephant seals, they’ll create a *Science Team Report* just as a scientist does. Explain that scientists keep daily notes about where they were, the number of animals, behavior, descriptions, measurements, sketches, weather, and other observations.
2. Have students discuss why they think scientists keep such reports. How does it help with on-going research?
3. Have students record information shared by the scientists’ Seamails and/or photographs of elephant seal rookeries.
4. Use logs to create graphs on population counts or measurements, or other skills appropriate for your students.
5. Preselect photo or photos for this activity. Share elephant seal rookery photos or project onto screen. Possible activities with one or more photographs includes:
  - Have students discuss observations.
  - Count the total number of seals.
  - Identify and count males, pups, juveniles and females.
  - Identify and count any other species.
  - Compare and contrast numbers from sight to sight (photo to photo).
  - Figure out a total numbers of males, females, pups, juveniles, unknown.
  - Also see: Space Case: Elephant Seal Activity
6. Optional: Include the logs in their science journal.

# Science Team Report -Team Elephant Seal Marine Mammal Sighting Report

Virtual Team Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Seamail report from: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

## Animal Observations:

Count: Males \_\_\_\_\_ Females without pup \_\_\_\_\_ Females with pup \_\_\_\_\_

Juveniles \_\_\_\_\_ pups without mothers \_\_\_\_\_

Tags: Numbers. Remember to note mothers with pups \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other animals (kind and number): \_\_\_\_\_

Other observations: \_\_\_\_\_

Today I discovered: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This makes me wonder: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ideas on how I might discover the answer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

On the back of this page, draw a picture or write about today's discoveries