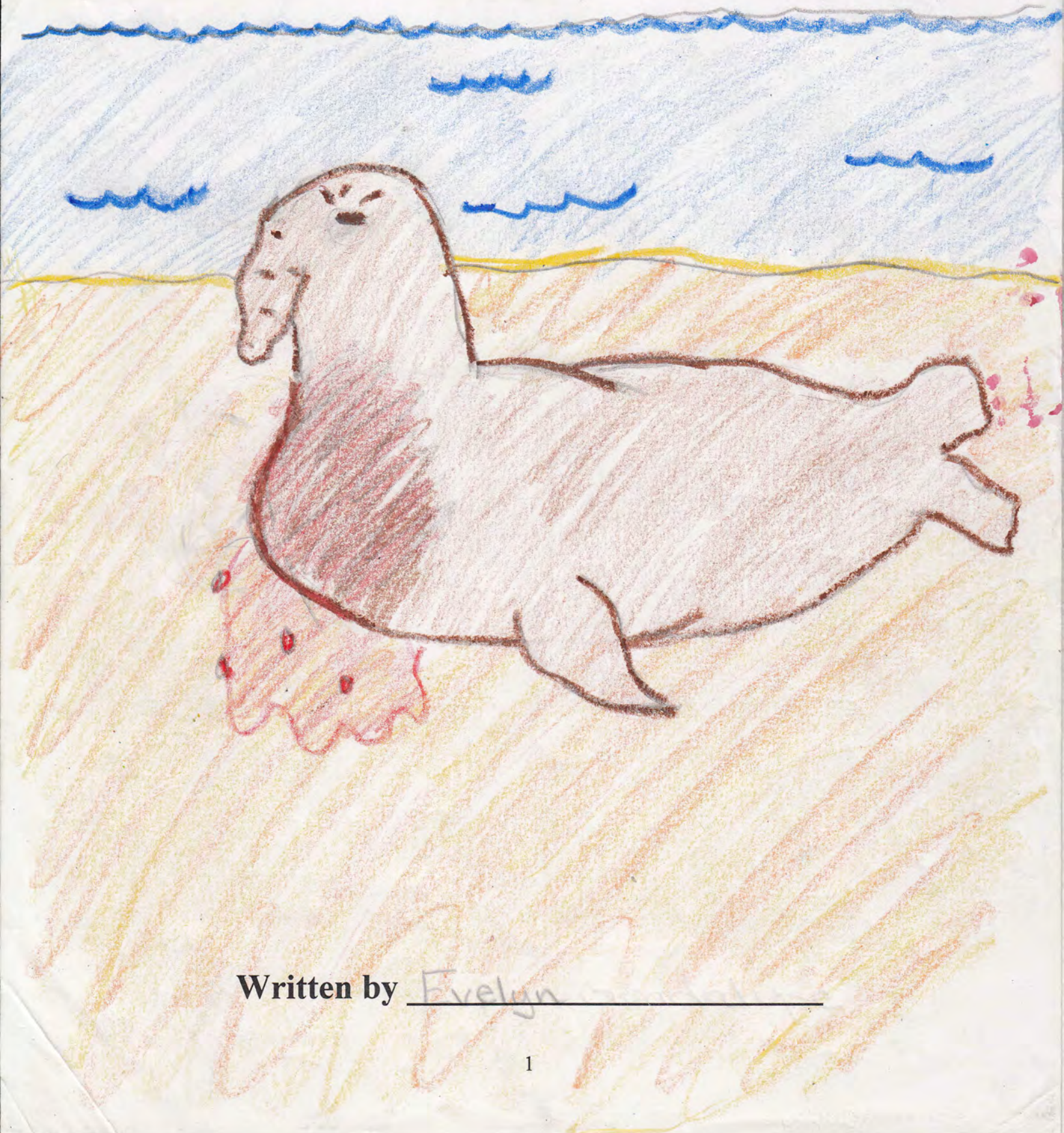


My Ocean Book on Elephant seals



Written by Evelyn

Hello fellow students. My name is Evelyn and I'm a 5th grade student at an elementary school in Watsonville. I'm in a special class where we are learning about *oceans* and I'd like to share with you about what *oceans* are, how *important* they are, and an *animal* of particular interest to me, Elephant seal.



About me...

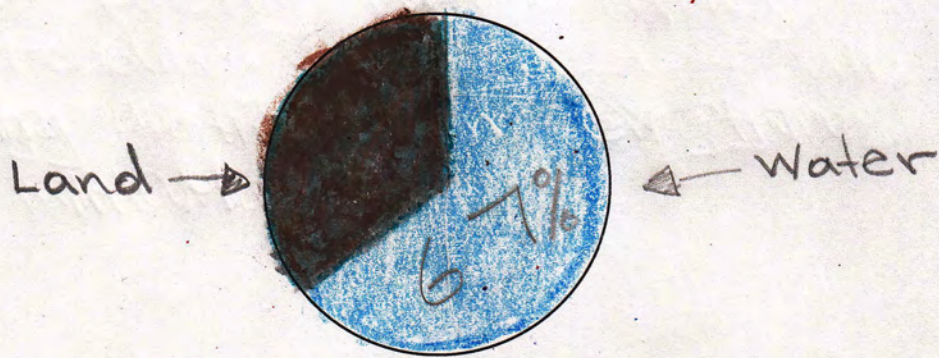
But before I start my book, I'd like to share with you about some of my favorite things.

I like poetry, art, writing, and reading. But best of all, helping others in everything; even with Math!



Okay, now I'm ready to write about what oceans are, their importance, and facts about one of my favorite animals, Elephant Seals.

First, *oceans* are essentially the largest ecosystem on planet earth, covering 67% of earth's surface. This can be demonstrated in the following ways below:



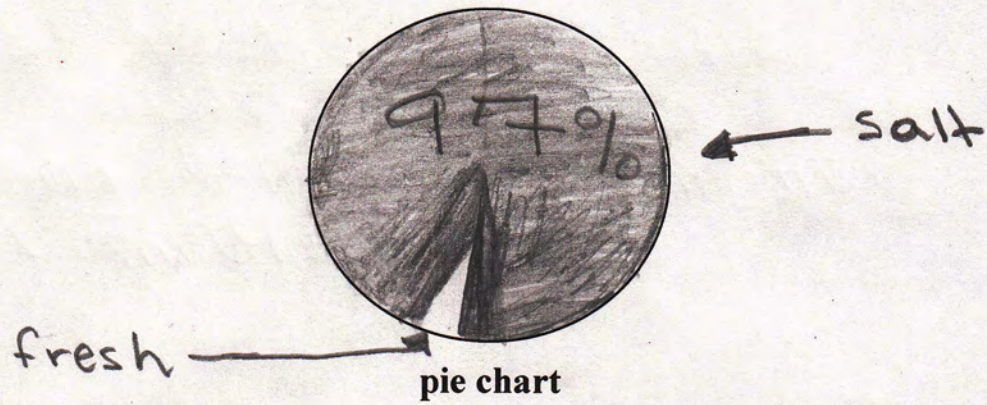
pie chart

67%
percentage

$\frac{67}{100}$
fraction

0.67
decimal

Second, since 97% of Earth's water is salt water, only 3% is fresh water. This means we must *all* make efforts to conserve and protect this vital resource.



97%
percentage

$\frac{97}{100}$
fraction

0.97
decimal

Third, we are very fortunate to literally have the ocean so close to us. The ocean serves many *important* purposes, such as:

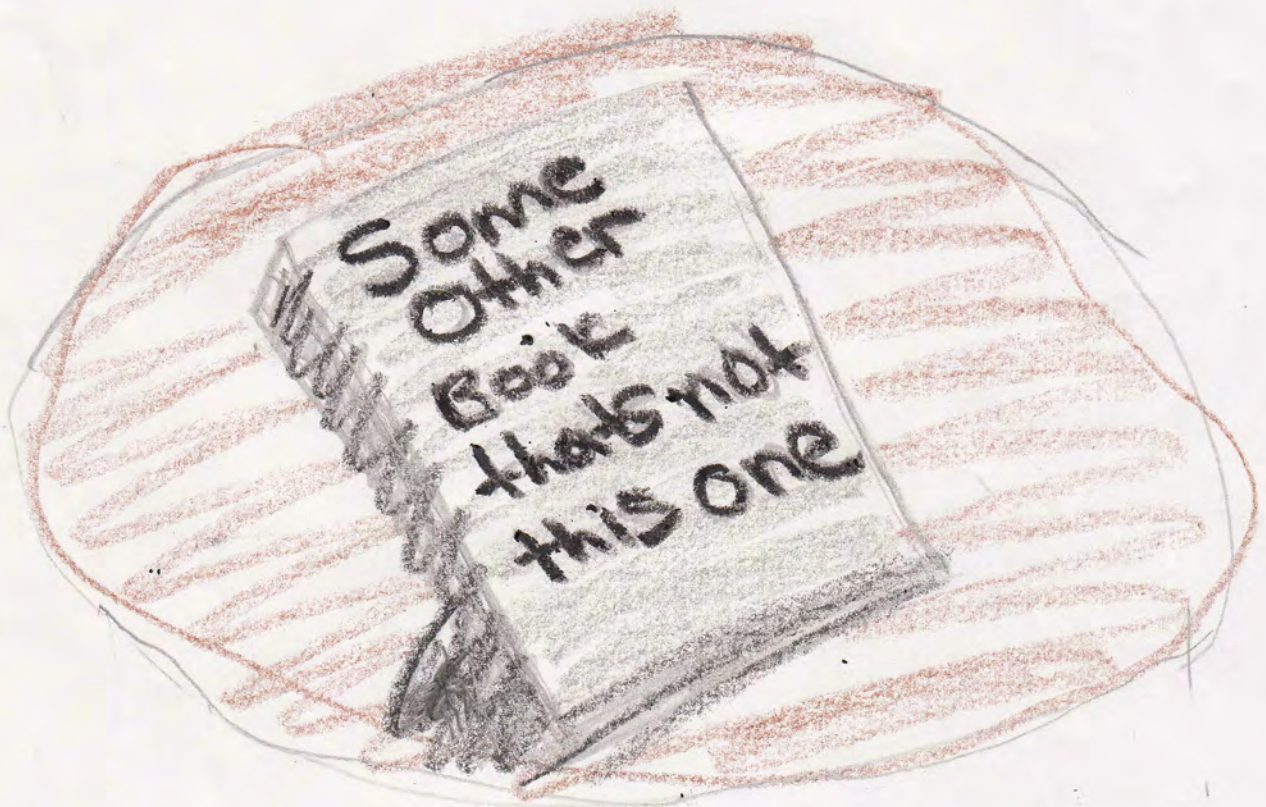
The beautiful Wildlife provides fish for us to eat and it's a beautiful sight to see when the sun sets.



Fourth, there is a particular *animal* of interest to me, namely the Elephant seal. I chose this *animal* because it has many unique ways to survive. I also
like the male's floppy nose.



In the following paragraphs, I will briefly discuss what I researched about my animal of interest, the Elephant seal. I will cover the following: classification, common name, scientific name, physical characteristics, behavior, if the animal camouflages, adaptations, range, migratory, population, status, reproduction, habitat, prey, predators, where animal fits in food web, and whether the Ohlone Indians used the animal for food, clothing, or other purposes. *I hope you enjoy the book!*



Classification

The Elephant seal is a Vertebrate because it has a backbone. It is classified as a mammal because Elephant seals are warm blooded, have hair, have live births, and pups drink milk from their mothers.

PUP
(Elephant seal baby)



Names

The Elephant seal has two names. The common name is Elephant seal, and the scientific name is Mirounga Angustirostris.

In science, the *scientific name* is the genus and species of the animal or plant.

Physical characteristics... my animal looks like...

My animal the elephant seal bull's
proboscis (nose) can grow 2 feet.
Males also have chest shields
to protect themselves when
they fight.



Camouflage...does my animal blend into its environment?

After looking at my animal and reading more about it, I realize that it does not
camouflage.

Adaptations

My animal is unique because it has a thick layer of skin (like most marine mammals) and blubber. Elephant seals are also excellent swimmers and divers.



Animal behavior

The way I would describe the behavior of my animal is males spend most of their time mating or fighting, whereas females spend their time giving birth, nursing their offspring, and protecting their young. They eventually abandon them when they get old enough to take care of themselves.

Range

The Elephant Seal is found in California
(Ano Nuevo) and Antarctica



Migratory...does it travel from one location to another during seasons?

The Elephant Seals migrate. For
example, they migrate from the
Arctic waters to Año Nuevo
in California.

Population

The population of my animal is 127,000
along the Coast of California
particulary Ano Nuevo.



Status

The status of the Elephant Seal tells me
whether it is endangered, threatened, or stable.
What I found out is that the Elephant Seal is
protected by the M.M.P.A. I find this
interesting because Elephant seals are in
need of protection even though they are huge
animals.

Reproduction

The reproduction of the Elephant Seal is in winter. Some babies have the same birth date. The female is pregnant for 2 months.

Habitat...home

The Elephant seals habitat is in Atlantic and Pacific Waters. They spend the winter at Ano Nuevo.



Prey and predator...(to eat and to be eaten)

The prey my animal eats are: Squid, rays,
octopus, and small or baby
sharks.

My animal eats other things such as:

Nothing else.

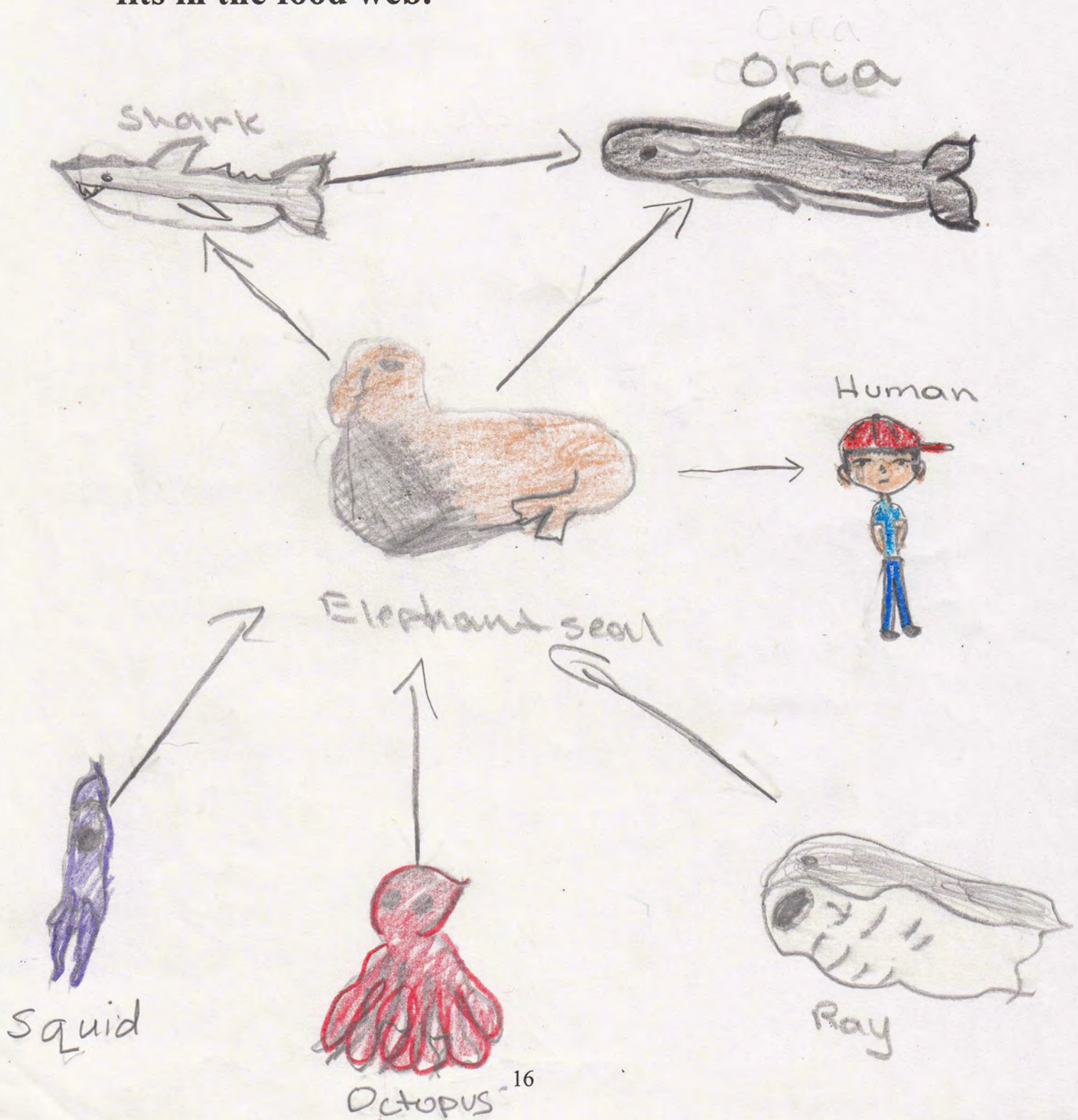


The predators that eat me are: Sharks,
Killer whales (orcas), and in 1892,
#1 predator was human beings.
(men).



Food web

My animal is a carnivore. The following picture demonstrates where my animal fits in the food web.



Ohlone Indians

I'm curious to see if the Ohlone Indians used the Elephant seal in anyway, for example, for food, clothing, or for other purposes. What I discovered is that Ohlone Indians
didn't hunt elephant seal at all!



References

(books, articles, web-sites, etc.)

www.noaa.gov

1. WWW. Marine-Science.org
2. WWW. National Marine.com
3. WWW. National Marine Mammal Laboratory.com
- *4. WWW. Office of Protected Resources.com
5. WWW. Science Daily.com
6. WWW. The Pacific wildlife foundation.com

Thank you for reading my book. I hope you enjoyed it and learned a lot about the Elephant seal. Please feel free to *comment* about my book and also, test your knowledge by answering the following *questions* below. I look forward to hearing from you.

Comments for me:

Questions for you: *(See if you can answer these?)*

1. Where is Año Nuevo located?
2. What do Elephant Seal moms do after feeding their baby?
3. How many inches of blubber do Elephant Seals have?