

Paper Plate Sea Lion

Credit: <https://www.messforless.net/uniquely-californian-sea-lion-craft/>

Age: 4+

Steller Sea Lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) live throughout the north Pacific

From Japan across the Bering Strait, and along the west coast of North America as far south as California. While the population in British Columbia is slowly increasing, the largest population in western Alaska declined about 85% between the 1970s and the 2000s, and was declared “Endangered” in 1997. Immense scientific efforts have been undertaken to discover the reasons for the decline (changes in fish availability, pollution, disease), including research conducted by UBC scientists (including Dave Rosen!) with animals at the Vancouver Aquarium.

The website where we found this craft is all about California sea lions – what differences do you notice between Steller and California sea lions? Hint: you need to use your ears!



Materials

3 Paper Plates

Brown Paint

Paintbrush

Glue

Scissors

Paper Eyes*

Black and White Construction Paper

Steps

1 – Paint the bottom of one paper plate brown. This will be the body of the sea lion. If you don't have any paper plates – don't fear! You can use construction paper, cardboard, CD's, lids, really anything that is round. If you don't have any brown paint, you can make a multi-coloured sea lion (a magical, mythical creature!), or glue on tissue paper, fabric, paper bags, etc.

2 – Paint a second paper plate brown, and once dry, trim the ridged edges of the paper plate off so you are left with the center, and then cut that down the center in half. You should end up with 2 brown semi circles, which will be the flippers.

3 – Paint the final paper plate brown and trim the ridged edges. The remaining center of the plate will be the sea lion's head.

4 – Grab the sea lion's "head". Glue on some paper eyes and cut out a nose and mouth from black construction paper. Cut some whiskers out from white paper, and glue those to the sea lion's face as well.

5 – Glue the sea lion head to the top of the "body" paper plate, and then attach both flippers on either side of the bottom. Flippers (our semi circles) should have the flat edge pointed towards the face.

Bonus: Think of the California sea lion. Is there anything you would change about the appearance of your sea lion to transform it from a Steller sea lion to a California sea lion?

Learn more about Steller sea lions here:

<https://www.vanagua.org/education/aquafacts/steller-sea-lions>

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