

FUN FACT

Can't tell the difference between seals and sea lions? Check out their ears! Sea lions have ears that stick out of their head (like us), while seals just have small holes in the side of their head

Seals

Seals are a common sight on Ireland's coastline. They are mammals, just like us humans! They are warm blooded, and so have an extra layer of fat under their skin (called blubber) to keep warm. Although they can dive underwater for up to 15 minutes, seals must come to the surface to take a breath. They spend their time split between swimming in the sea and resting on land.



Although there are 33 different types of seals, only two species are found in Ireland. The **Common Seal** and the **Grey Seal** can be quite difficult to tell apart, both greyish in colour with a speckled pattern. The best way to tell them apart is by the shape of their their nostrils and snout. Grey seals have a longer snout with parallel nostrils, common seals have a shorter snout with V shaped nostrils (and are more common in harbours and bays).



Actions:

- Research flippers and find out what other animals use these to swim
- What do seals eat?
- How do you think marine litter could affect seals?