



California Coast Critter Circle

From the swaying fronds of the kelp forest to the sandy shoreline, the California coast is home to an incredible diversity of animals.

Learn about five of California's unique coastal animals by making a spinning wheel craft. Which is your favorite?

Materials

Scissors
Circle templates (pages 4 and 5)
Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
Metal brad

Directions

1. **Cut out** the templates on pages 4 and 5.
2. **Color** in the circles. **Learn** more about the five animals on pages 2 and 3, and use the photos as inspiration as you color each critter.
3. **Stack** the circles, with the animals on the bottom. **Push** a metal brad through the center of each circle and fold the prongs out flat.
4. Slowly **Spin** the bottom circle, revealing a new animal in the peek-a-boo window. Have you seen any of these animals at the beach or the aquarium?



Meet some of the charismatic critters that live along the coast of California!



Garibaldi

Meet the state marine fish of California! The garibaldi is a bright orange fish that can be found swimming in kelp forests off the coast.

Do you see the garibaldi's heart-shaped tail?

Photo Credit: Claire Fackler, NOAA.



Long-billed curlew

How about that beak! The long-billed curlew can be found in tidal estuaries using its long, curved bill to hunt for crabs in mud and sand.

Candlestick Point, a state park in San Francisco, is named after this bird. Can you guess why one of its nicknames is the "candlestick bird"?

Photo Credit: R. Baak, USFWS.



Gumboot chiton

Say hello to the largest chiton in the world! The gumboot chiton can grow over 1 foot in length and uses its strong, muscular foot to hold onto intertidal rocks.

What do you think the gumboot chiton feels like?

Photo Credit: Oregon State University



California sea lion

California sea lions are very social—and very vocal! They can be found in large groups, swimming or resting on the shore, and barking to communicate with each other.

Do you see the large forehead of the dark-colored adult male sea lion in the center of the photo?

Photo Credit: Sharon Melin, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries

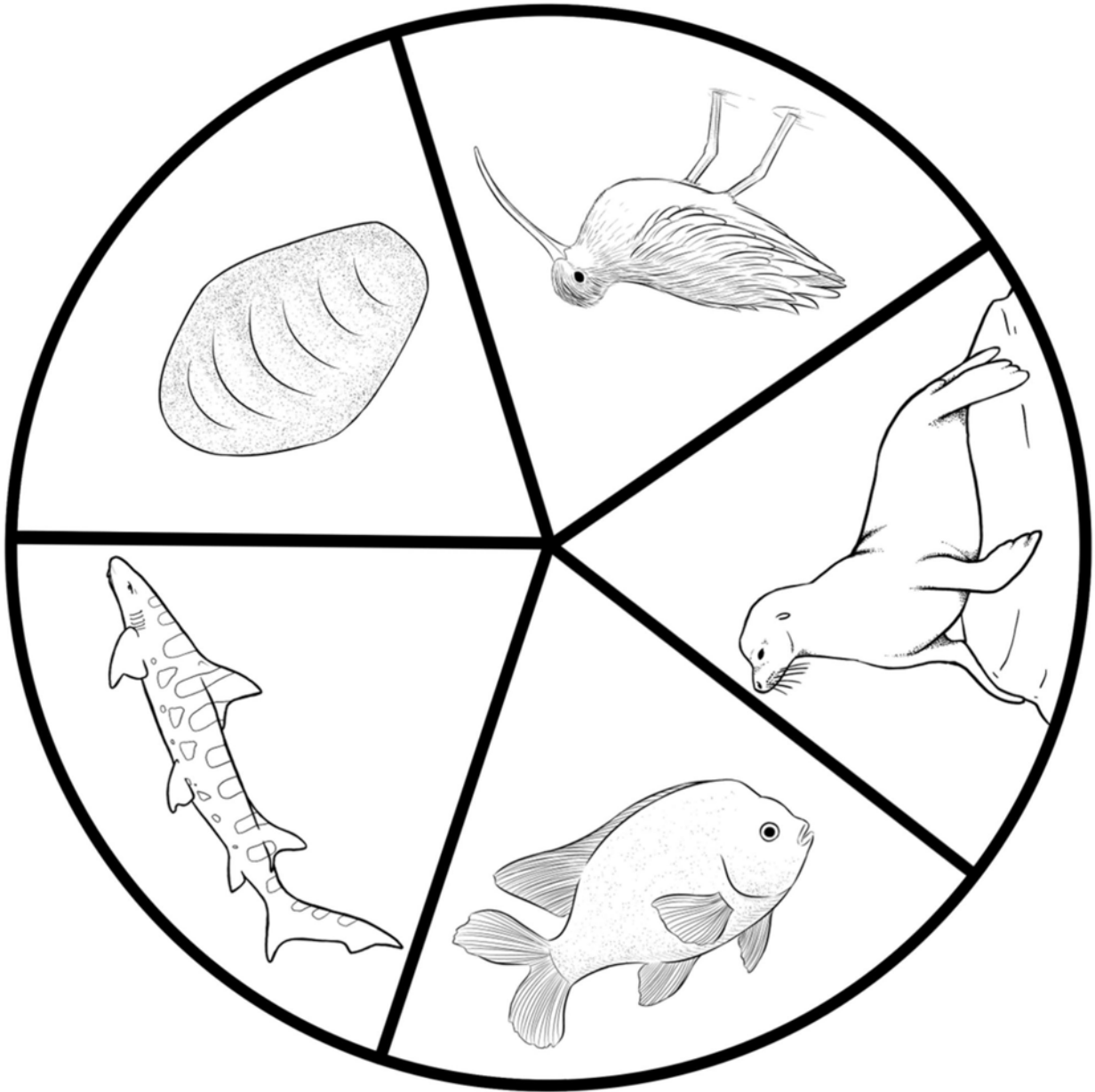


Leopard shark

Leopard sharks spend much of their time swimming along the sandy seafloor in kelp forests, eating animals like clams, crabs, and sometimes fish.

How do you think the leopard shark got its name?

Photo Credit: Eric Heupel



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