

A large colony of seals is gathered on a rocky beach. In the foreground, several seals are perched on dark, jagged rocks, looking towards the camera. The background shows a vast number of seals extending to the water's edge, with waves breaking in the distance. The overall scene is a natural, candid shot of a seal colony.

Phillip Island
**NATURE
PARKS**

Seal Secrets

Activity 1: What do you know about seals?

In this space write down at least 3 things you already know (or think you know!) about seals.

Activity 2: Let's find out about seals!



Explore the links below to find out more about our Australian fur seals

Click me!



Click me!



Activity 3: Seal Systems

Australian fur seals have a unique reproductive system that is adapted to suit their environment. On the next slide, create a chart showing the different stages of the reproductive cycle.

Remember to include when seals arrive and depart the colony, when birth and breeding take place, when mothers wean their pup and any other important events.

Australian Fur Seal Reproductive Cycle

Activity 4: Environment

One of the biggest threats to our Australian fur seals are entanglements in marine debris. Choose one of the items below and create a graphic showing how it ends up entangling a seal. You might draw a comic, a timeline, a life cycle for the item or any other image that explains the story of how that item became entangled on a seal.

Think about what the item was first used for, how it travelled to the seal, and how the seal became stuck.

Finish with a message telling people what they can do to prevent this from happening again!



Plastic Shopping Bag



Fishing Line



Balloon and Ribbon

Activity 5: Seal Spotter

Now that you know about Australian fur seals and the problems they face with marine debris, get ready to become a citizen scientist! SealSpotter allows anyone with a computer to help with the management and protection of our oceans by counting seals in images captured with a UAV (a.k.a 'drone'). This allows Nature Parks scientists to analyse seal population and marine debris entanglement data faster and more accurately, leading to a greater understanding of their world and the threats they face.

Click below and watch the tutorial video to get started!

