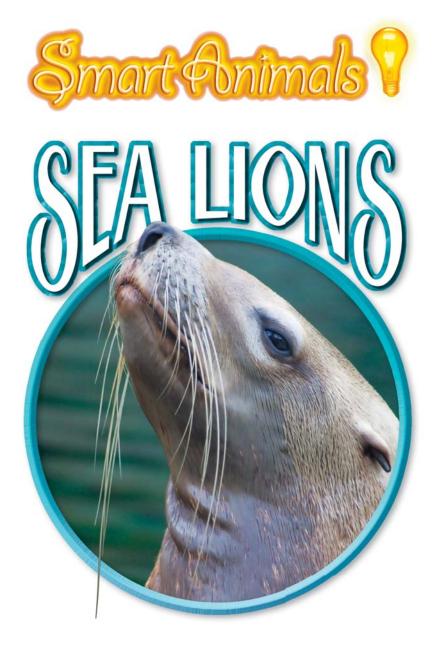


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by Margaret Fetty

Consultant: Jenny Montague Assistant Curator of Marine Mammals New England Aquarium Boston, MA



New York, New York

Credits

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Zak on Guard

Zak swims through the **harbor**. He is searching for enemy divers who are trying to blow up U.S. Navy ships.

Zak listens for clues. He hears the soft sounds of air bubbles floating through the water. They may be coming from a dangerous diver. So Zak goes into action.





A Zak is a 375-pound (170-kg) California sea lion.

First, Zak quietly swims up behind the enemy. He then attaches a clamp to the swimmer's leg. Before the diver knows what has happened, Zak swims away. A rope is connected to the clamp. Sailors can now pull the enemy out of the water and question him.

Zak leaps onto a boat after training.

Dolphins and whales, as well as sea lions, have been trained to help the U.S. **military**.



An Intelligent Choice

Since 1975, sea lions like Zak have been trained by the U.S. Navy. They have been taught to guard harbors and carry tools and equipment. They have also been taught to find and **recover** objects lost in oceans and lakes.



Sea lions are trained for about a year and a half before they are ready to work for the Navy.



Sea lions have many skills that make them a good choice for Navy training. These clever mammals can see well in deep, dark water. They can hear faraway sounds. They can dive many times without getting tired. Sea lions can also move quickly on land and in water. So they can chase an enemy out of the ocean.



objects lost in the water.

easy for them to find objects deep in the ocean.



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About the Author

Margaret Fetty has written numerous children's books. She lives in Austin, Texas, where she enjoys running and biking.



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Zak swam through the harbor. He was searching for enemy divers. If he spotted one, he would quickly attach a clamp to the swimmer's leg and dart away. As a reward, Zak would get a fish—after all, he's a sea lion! Look inside to find out more about Zak and other sea lions whose brainy behavior helps humans stay safe, recover lost objects, and even film whales.

SEA LIONS

Chimpanzees Crows Dolphins Elephants Octopuses Parrots Pigs Sea Lions



