

FIN, FUR, AND FEATHER FAMILIES

Packs, pods, flocks, herds—there are all kinds of animal families, just as there are diverse human families. And like us, many animals form strong family bonds, staying together for life. For instance, orcas rarely separate for more than a few hours.

Animals and humans can learn how to thrive from grandparents, parents, siblings, and other relatives. It's great to play, eat together, look out for each other, and develop our strengths and talents.

Sometimes, getting along with our families can be a challenge. One big thing that helps is having empathy. When we try to understand each other's thoughts and feelings, we build stronger bonds.

We can have empathy for our friends with fins, feathers, and fur, too. Keep your distance from animal families and respect their homes, so they feel safe. There's plenty of room on Earth for us to share with all types of families.

Along this California coast, match each animal to its statement.

1 GULL

2 FRIGATEBIRD

3 PLOVER

4 ORCA

7 SEAHORSE

5 SEA OTTER

6 DOLPHIN

8 SEA LION

A I was over 8 ft (2.5 m) at birth. Some of us live in a family, or pod, with four generations.

B My camouflaged egg hatched on the beach. Now, some of my feathers are sand-colored. Dad was my main caregiver.

C I was born at the rookery, where Dad guards about 15 moms and their young. Mom and I find each other with loud, unique calls.

D Mom cared for me for almost a year. Like Dad and all males, I have a red throat pouch.

E I'm one of the most well-known birds, found on every continent. Both of my parents take turns caring for their eggs.

F We're very social, and I'll stay with Mom for at least a few years. We help each other, and sometimes we help humans.

G My mom wraps me in kelp while she's feeding, so I don't float away.

H My parents got together by dancing. It's Dad who carries the eggs and gives birth! There can be hundreds of newborns, called fry.