



SeaWorld/Busch Gardens Baby Animals

4-8 Classroom Activities

Graphing Growth

OBJECTIVE

Given the known weights of a killer whale at various ages, the student will be able to graph these weights then use this information to estimate a killer whale's weight at other ages.

ACTION

1. Introduce activity with a discussion on growth rates of baby animals. Compare humans (how much did students weigh at birth? in first grade? now?) to other mammals, birds, reptiles. How does life span relate to growth rate (generally, the longer the life span, the more slowly the growth from birth to adult weight.)
2. Copy and distribute the Graphing Growth funsheet to your students.
3. Students follow directions on the funsheet and estimate answers.
4. When finished, students share answers with classmates.

ANSWERS

1. about 700 lb.
2. about 3,150 lb.
3. about 18 months
4. about 30 months

MATERIALS

For each student:

- copies of the graphing growth funsheet
- pencils
- rulers

Name _____

Graphing Growth

The table below lists average ages and weights for the killer whale (*Orcinus orca*).

Using the grid below, do the following:

Plot killer whale ages on the x-axis, and weights on the y-axis. Connect each data point on the graph. Answer the following questions on the back of this paper.

1. Estimate how much a killer whale will weigh when it's six months old.
2. Estimate how much a killer whale will weigh when it's four years old.
3. Estimate how old a killer whale is when it weighs 1,400 lb.
4. Estimate how old a killer whale is when it weighs 2,300 lb.

age (months)	birth	3	9	12	24	36	60
weight (pounds)	350	530	890	1,070	1,800	2,750	3,500

