

WILD WONDER

GREY SEALS

WITH PUPPY-DOG EYES, a button nose and snowy white fur, it's hard not to fall in love with the grey seal pup. The white coat that seals are born with is replaced by its signature grey one after about three weeks, at which point most mothers abandon their young to mate again. Behind its cuddly exterior is an undoubtable might – 14kg worth at birth, and a whopping 230kg and 150kg



for adult 'bulls' (males) and 'cows' (females) respectively. Much of this weight is an insulating layer of blubber, which keeps the seal warm when hunting for sand eels, shrimp and cod, at depths of up to 70 metres. Grey seals also boast strong back muscles and webbed feet to propel them through the water at speeds of around 23mph. Hunted to near-extinction for their meat and fur, in 1914 they became the first mammal to be protected by law in the UK. They are now safeguarded by the Conservation of Seals Act and, although still under threat, numbers have recently risen. According to the Wildlife Trusts, almost 40 per cent of the worldwide population can now be found darting through UK waters. Find out more at wildlifetrusts.org.

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- 2p 40 Zeehonden hebben volgens deze tekst drie lichamelijke kenmerken die hen in staat stellen in water te leven en hun eten te vangen.
→ Noem er **twee**.
Geef antwoord in het Nederlands.

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.