

MONTEREY: A CITY OF THE SEA

Read the passage. Then answer the questions on the following page.

Monterey is a city located on the Pacific coast of California. It lies at the southern edge of Monterey Bay. A bay is a large body of water where the land curves in from the ocean. Monterey Bay has an underwater canyon, or a valley with steep sides. This canyon is close to 300 miles long. It is 7.5 miles wide and more than 2 miles deep. It's the deepest ocean environment near a U.S. coast. Monterey's location near the canyon makes it a wonderful place to observe and learn about sea life.



Monterey Bay Aquarium

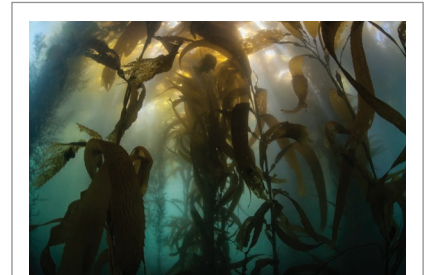


Gray whale

Whale watching is a big deal in Monterey. Whales can be spotted close to shore year-round. One reason for the bay's popularity with whales is that Monterey Bay has so much of the food that whales like to eat. Whales feed on the bay's many small fish and tiny, shrimplike creatures called krill. Blue whales, humpback whales, and dolphins all swim and feed in the deep waters around Monterey. But Monterey is most famous for its California gray whales. About 20,000 of these huge whales pass by every year. Between December and April, the whales **migrate** between Alaska and Mexico. They travel along a sea route that people have nicknamed the "Gray Whale Highway." Their path takes

them close to Monterey's underwater kelp forests. The kelp helps hide baby whales from predators like sharks and orcas.

The bay's kelp forests and plentiful food support many other sea animals as well. California sea otters live along Monterey's coast. These playful creatures can be seen rolling around and floating on their backs in the water while feeding on shellfish. Sea lions and harbor seals also eat and rest along Monterey's shores. Sea birds like gulls and pelicans fish from the rich waters as well.



Kelp forest in Monterey Bay



Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf

Monterey Bay Aquarium sits right on the rocky shore of Monterey. Many sea creatures—sometimes even whales—can be spotted from the aquarium's outdoor deck. This aquarium is one of the best in the world. It's a great place to observe and learn about all the sea life around Monterey. For an even closer look, whale-watching boats take people out into the bay. They leave from Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf. There, fishing boats also deliver their catch right to the restaurants along the wharf. People feast on fresh clam chowder and fish dinners. In Monterey, it's all about the sea.

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Answer the questions about the text.

1. Where is the city of Monterey? Fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

Monterey is in the state of _____ .

It sits on the coast of the _____ Ocean.

2. Why do so many whales come to Monterey Bay?

3. What type of whale is Monterey most famous for?

4. Look at the word in bold in the second paragraph. Based on clues in the text, what does migrate mean?

5. What locations in Monterey are shown in the pictures in the passage?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

6. Based on the text, which of the following animals can be found in or around Monterey Bay? Select all that apply.

- a. crocodiles
- b. sea otters
- c. manatees
- d. sea lions
- e. dolphins
- f. harbor seals
- g. penguins
- h. pelicans

7. What is the main idea of the passage? Write your answer in a complete sentence.
