

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

A Whale of a Record!

A whale sets the record for deepest and longest dive.

Have you ever swum to the bottom of a pool? The Cuvier beaked whale can go pretty deep too! The sea creature just set world records for the deepest and the longest dives by a **mammal**!

The whale dived 9,816 feet down — that's almost two miles deep! It also went underwater for two hours and 17 minutes. This beats the old records of two hours underwater and 7,835 feet deep made by southern elephant seals.

The new records are a feat for air-breathing animals. Most cannot survive the change in pressure in the deep sea. But scientists said these whales have a special **ability** that allows them to dive deep. Some of their **organs** fold in when they dive. When the whales swim back up to breathe, their organs pop up again!

The science team, Cascadia Research Collective, shared its findings last week after studying eight whales. It tracked them for three months in the waters off Southern California. The scientists recorded 1,100 dives but said they needed to do more to learn more about the mysterious whales.

By Stephanie Santana



A Cuvier beaked whale

FACT:

The world record for a person holding his breath underwater is 22 minutes!

ACT:

Keep a diary of a record you want to break for yourself to see how much you can improve!

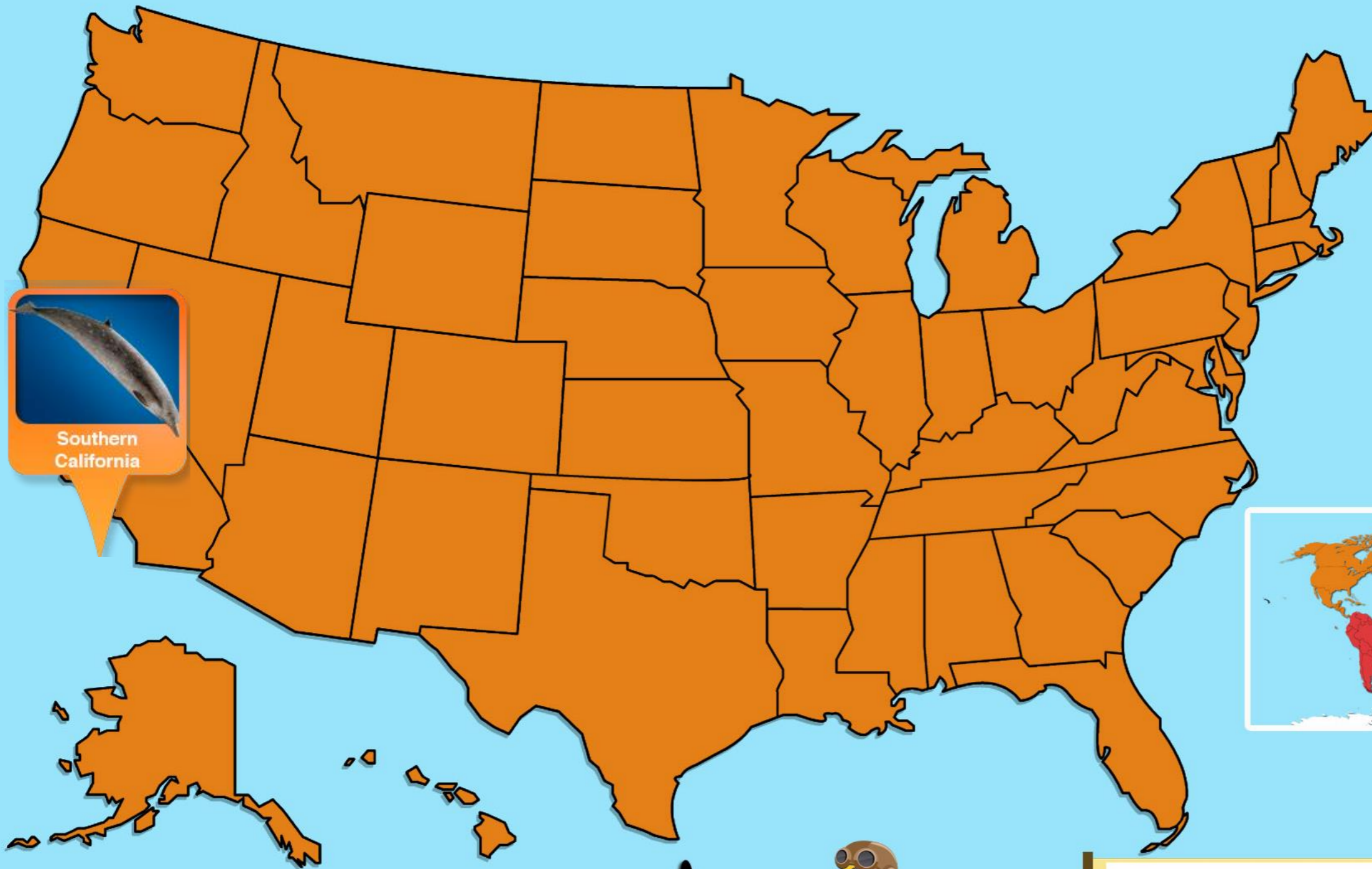
VOCABULARY:

mammal: warm-blooded animal that breathes air, has hair, and usually gives live birth

ability: skill; talent

organs: body parts, such as the lungs, brain, or liver

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The waters of Southern California are part of the Pacific Ocean. That is the deepest ocean in the world.