

# Who-Am-I Writing Frame

(Title) Legendary Mermaids  
by

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(Hook) Have you ever seen a mermaid? Well, ancient

(Introduce animal with a tease for your reader) sailors claimed that they saw mermaids in the warm  
tropical waters of the Caribbean Sea. Christopher

(Prove it!) Columbus wrote in his ship's log that he saw these  
mermaids during his voyages to the New World.

(Clue #1) These mermaids are really warm-blooded mammals  
who live in the ocean. Like all mammals, they nourish their

(Show but don't tell) young with milk. They stay just under the water's  
surface, as they must come out of the water to breathe.

(Prove it!) In fact, their lungs fill up with air when they breathe,  
and this helps them float. When the mermaids are  
swimming they come up for water every three or four  
minutes. However, when they are resting they can stay  
under the water for as long as 15 minutes.

(Clue #2)

Watch out for these mermaids as they can grow to

thirteen feet and weigh more than 3,000 pounds. They

( Give another hint but don't give it away )

start out as big babies weighing 60 to 70 pounds at birth.

Being this big produces a healthy appetite. Every day

(Prove it!)

these mammals must eat up to 15% of their body weight

just to survive. So they spend most of their time grazing

in shallow water. Some mermaids eat as much as 100

pounds a day. They munch on water plants such as sea

grass, hyacinths, water lettuce, and hydrilla.

( Clue #3)

You might see one of these mermaids if you look for

a large dark-gray body with wrinkled skin and whiskers.

(This should be the clearest description but still don't tell )

Their blimp-shaped bodies are equipped with two front

flippers and a paddle-shaped tail. These mermaids are

really not very attractive as they each have small beady

eyes and a pug nose. They have hairs scattered over their

(Prove it!)

elephant-like skin to help their body recognize touch and

movement. These mammals use their tail to push through

the water. They can swim as fast as 15 miles an hour but

they usually move along at a much slower speed. Although

their eyes are small, the mermaids can see objects more than 30 feet away if the water is clear. Each part of their body plays an important part in their survival.

(Sum It Up)

In conclusion, if you are boating, be careful not to hit these mermaids with your boat propellers. We need to protect these mammals because they are an endangered species. Can you guess the name of these sea creatures?

( Make your reader guess the animal )