

The Wonderful World of Whales

By Jenny Gibson



Table of Contents

Introduction

How Whales Breathe

Kinds of Whales

A Whales Home

Baby Whales

Introduction

There are many different kinds of whales that live in the sea. In the past, whales were hunted for their meat, blubber, and bones. Now, it is illegal to hunt most whales.



How Whales Breathe

When most people think of a whale, they think it is a fish. Even though whales live in the sea, they are not fish. Whales actually hold their breath when they are under water. When they come up to the surface of the water, they breathe out. Moist air shoots out of their blow hole.

Kinds of Whales

There are many different kinds of whales. Some whales have teeth, they are called toothed whales. The whales that do not have teeth are called baleen whales. These whales have a baleen plate in their mouth that helps keep plants and small fish inside and strain out the water.



A humpback whale is an example of a baleen whale. Like all whales, humpbacks have two tail fins called flukes. Their flukes have markings that are like fingerprints in people. No two whales have the same markings.

A fun fact that you may not know about humpback whales is that they can sing. A song that they sing is made up of a series of sounds that they repeat. Their songs can go on for hours. Scientists believe that these songs are used to attract a mate.

A Whales Home

In the summertime, humpback whales live and feed in cold waters. Whales use a trick in order to catch their food. They go underwater and blow bubbles that trap little fish.

Before wintertime, whales migrate to warmer water. In the summer, whales live in the cold water near Alaska. During the winter, they live in the warm waters near Mexico.

Baby Whales

A baby whale is called a calf. Calves are born while the mothers are in the warm waters. When the calf is born, the mother whale helps bring it to the surface to take its first breath.



Works Referenced

Berger, Melvin. (1993). *As Big As a Whale*. New York, NY: Newbridge Educational Publishing.

Simon, Seymour. (1989). *Whales*. U.S.A.: Harper Trophy

Parkes, Brenda. (1999). *Watching Whales*. New York, NY: Newbridge Educational Publishing.

Common Core State Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.7

Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.10

By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 2-3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

This e-book and any prints are released under a [CC BY 3.0 license](#) by the author.

This means that you are free to share, remix, transform, and build upon this book as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author.

Included works (e.g., images and other media) may have separate licensing requirements, and this release does not supersede or replace those requirements.

This e-book template is provided under a CC BY 3.0 license by the University of Idaho College of Education. If you use, share, remix, or transform this template, you should include this page at the end of your book.

