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our AMAZING  
WORLD  
CLIL READERS

# The Humpback Whale

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# Whales



**W**hales are very clever large, aquatic mammals. They breathe air just like humans, but through an opening called a blowhole. They are the only mammals that have adapted completely to life in the ocean. Like all mammals, whales have some hair and are warm-blooded. They feed their babies milk and have four-chambered hearts.

There are two types of whales: toothed whales and baleen whales.

## Toothed Whales

Species of toothed whales include the beluga, narwhal, pilot, killer, and sperm whales. Dolphins are also a species of toothed whales. Toothed whales have one blowhole and use echolocation to hunt. They have sharp, peg-like teeth to catch fish, squid, and other marine mammals, which they swallow whole.



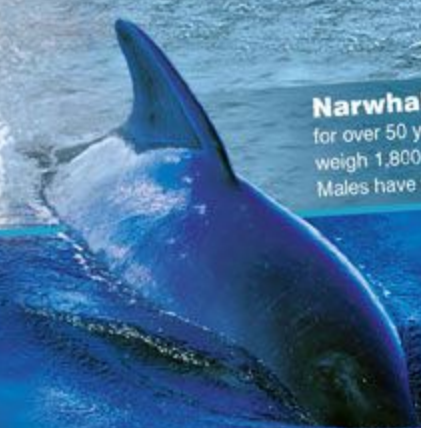
**Beluga Whale:** Also called white whales, belugas live in shallow waters near the Arctic. Adults are up to 18 feet long, weigh 2,600 to 4,200 lbs and live for up to 80 years. Calves are born five feet long at 180 lbs, and are gray, but lose their color by around age seven.



**Killer Whale:** Also known as orcas, killer whales are one of the world's fiercest predators. They live throughout the world's oceans and range from 16 to 26 feet long and weigh three to six tons. Calves are born eight feet long at 400 lbs. The maximum lifespan of a male is 60, for a female, 90.



**Narwhal:** Nicknamed the "unicorns of the sea," narwhals live for over 50 years in the Arctic. Adults are 11 to 14 feet long and weigh 1,800 to 3,500 lbs. Newborns are five feet long and 220 lbs. Males have tusks which can be over 10 feet long.



**Pilot Whale:** Called "cheetahs of the deep sea," pilot whales live for up to 60 years throughout most of the world's oceans. Calves are about six feet long and 250 lbs and adults are 20 feet long and up to 3 tons. They can dive 3,000 feet deep for 15 minutes.

**Sperm Whale:** Sperm whales are the largest of the toothed whales, and the deepest diving mammals. They live up to 70 years throughout the world's oceans and can dive to almost 10,000 feet. Adults are 67 feet long and weigh 63 tons, while newborns are 13 feet long and weigh about one ton.



## Baleen Whales

Baleen whales are larger than toothed whales and have two blowholes. Also called toothless whales, they have plates attached to baleen hairs in their mouths in place of teeth. Sometimes called whalebone, baleen is a very strong material made of keratin, the same material human fingernails are made of. Baleen whales take in large amounts of water as they swim. The baleen plates have a comb-like structure, which filters out food, like krill and fish, from the water. Unlike toothed whales, and most other species of animals, female baleen whales are larger than males.

Species of baleen whales include the blue, fin, minke, gray, bowhead, right, and of course humpback whales.



Baleen was once used in many things such as corsets, buggy whips, and umbrella ribs.