



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.

# Humpback

## Myths & Legends



**W**hales are featured in the myths and legends of many cultures around the world. Different myths show the strong connection between humans and whales, but they also show the mysteriousness of these creatures.

The humpback whale is a key figure in a myth of the Maori people of New Zealand. In *The Legend of Paikea*, we see not only the importance of humpbacks in the culture of the Maori, but also the strong bond between humans and whales. The legend explains how the Maori people arrived on the South Island of New Zealand.

# The Legend of Paikea

**A** great chief had many sons. Two of them were Ruatapu and Paikea. Ruatapu was older than Paikea but the chief loved Paikea more than Ruatapu and gave him many gifts. He also declared that Paikea would someday become the chief of their tribe.

Ruatapu was very jealous of Paikea and decided to get rid of him. He planned to take his younger brother out to sea in a canoe and kill him. Then he would return to his tribe and tell his father that Paikea had drowned. However, Paikea discovered his older brother's plan and cut a small hole in the bottom of the canoe. When they set out in the canoe, he covered the hole with his foot to stop the water from coming inside.

When the two brothers were very far from land, Ruatapu turned toward Paikea and attacked him. His younger brother quickly removed his foot from the floor of the canoe, and water began to fill it immediately. Ruatapu could not swim, and drowned when the canoe sank. Paikea was relieved to escape his brother, but he now found himself trapped at sea far away from the shore. He floated on the water, clinging to a piece of wood and awaiting his own death.

Suddenly, a great humpback whale, Tohora, appeared and lifted Paikea onto its back. Tohora took Paikea to the east coast of the North Island of New Zealand, where he lived a happy and prosperous life. His descendants traveled south and became the most powerful tribe on the South Island. To this day, these people consider the humpback whale sacred and honor it for saving their ancestor.



# Life in the Ocean

## Word Bank (pp. 16-17)

**migrate** (v) = to move from one place to another at a particular time of the year

**cool** (adj) = low in temperature

**pole** (n) = the farthest north or south region of the Earth

**mate** (n) = a partner to have babies with

**give birth to (a baby)** (phr) = to have (a baby)

**calf** (n) = the baby of large mammals such as whales

**tropical** (adj) = hot and humid

**Equator** (n) = an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth halfway between the North and South Poles

**shallow waters** (phr) = areas of water that are not very deep

**coastline** (n) = the outline of the coast, especially when seen from the sea or the air

**record** (v) = to write sth down or store information on a computer

**migration** (n) = the movement from one place to another at a particular time of the year

**identify** (v) = to recognize


**epic journey** (phr) = a very long and difficult trip

**prevent** (v) = to stop from happening

## Pre-Reading activities

1 a) Decide if the following sentences are *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- 1 Humpback whales are found in oceans and seas all over the world. ....
- 2 Humpback whales move to warmer waters when it is time to mate. ....
- 3 Humpback whales usually swim near the surface of the water. ....
- 4 Humpbacks never travel more than a few miles when they migrate. ....

b)  Listen, read, and check.

## While-Reading activities

2 Read the text and choose the best answers from A, B, C, or D.

- 1 There are no humpback whales ...  
A at the surface of the ocean  
B in the Arabian sea  
C in the eastern Mediterranean and Baltic seas  
D close to the Equator
- 2 During the summer, humpbacks do NOT ...  
A find a mate  
B migrate to warm tropical waters  
C feed their calves  
D have babies
- 3 The humpback whales in the Indian Ocean ...  
A migrate closer to the Antarctic  
B travel a long distance when they migrate  
C migrate to tropical waters  
D spend their summers and winters in the same place



**3 Match the numbers and letters to make sentences.**

- 1  Humpback whales can travel ...
- 2  Humpback whales live ...
- 3  They spend different seasons ...
- 4  Most humpbacks migrate, but ...

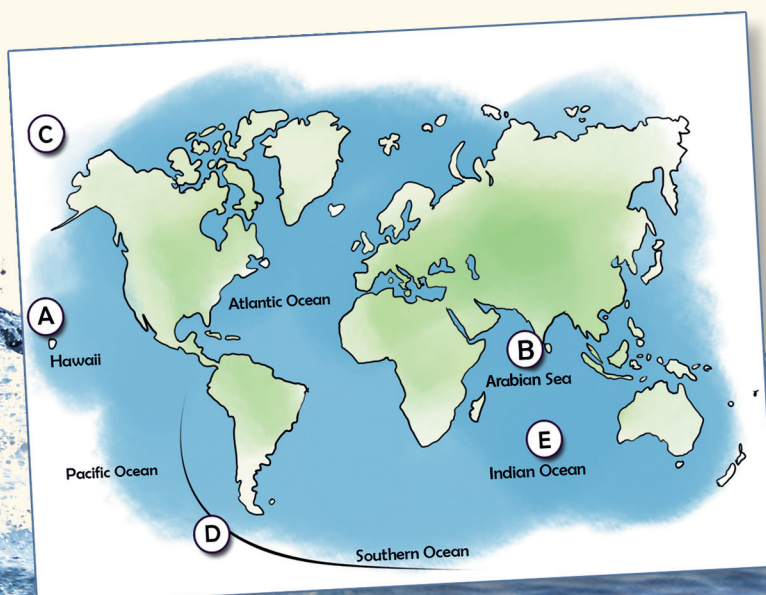
- A ... some do not.
- B ... in most of the world's oceans.
- C ... in different areas.
- D ... for thousands of miles.

**4 Fill in: poles, oceans, surface, coastline, mate, populations.**

- 1 Humpbacks live in almost all the world's ..... and seas.
- 2 Humpbacks live near the ..... of the water.
- 3 When they want to find a ....., they move closer to the Equator.
- 4 Some ..... of humpback whales stay in the same waters for the whole year.
- 5 They prefer the cooler waters near the ..... in summer.
- 6 Humpback whales can be found both in the open ocean and near the .....

**5 SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY: Match the numbers to the letters.**

- 1  longest recorded humpback whale migration
- 2  migrate here during summer months
- 3  remain in tropical waters all year round
- 4  migrate here to find a mate or give birth
- 5  prevented from migrating due to the northern coastline



**After-Reading activities**

**6 From the chapter, which of the following can be inferred about humpback whales?**


- A Humpback whales always follow the same route when they migrate.
- B Some humpback whales migrate to the eastern Mediterranean sea.
- C Most humpbacks migrate during different seasons, but some do not.
- D Most humpbacks do not migrate, but a few do.

**7 From the chapter, which of the following CANNOT be inferred about humpback whales?**

- A Humpbacks usually spend their summers near the poles.
- B Humpbacks return to warmer waters in the winter months.
- C Humpbacks tend to stay in shallow waters.
- D Most humpback whales live close to the Equator.

# Review

## Listening Activities

- 1**  Listen to a lecture about humpback whales. For questions 1-3 choose the correct answer A, B, C, or D.
- 1** What is the main topic of the lecture?
- A** the importance of sound underwater
  - B** the feeding habits of humpback whales
  - C** the breeding habits of humpback whales
  - D** the hunting techniques used by humpback whales
- 2** Why does the speaker say, "Can anyone tell me why sound is so important in the ocean?"
- A** to explain the topic of their next assignment
  - B** to introduce what he is going to talk about next
  - C** to put emphasis on what he has just said
  - D** to review what he has already told his students
- 3** According to the speaker, why is sound more important than sight under the water?
- A** because whales don't have good eyesight
  - B** because light travels for a long way underwater
  - C** because whales live far away from each other
  - D** because sound travels for very long distances underwater

## Reading Activities

- 1** Mark the sentences as *T* (true) or *F* (false). Correct the false statements.
- 1** The blue whale is the largest species of whale. ....
  - 2** Humpback whales only eat meat. ....
  - 3** Humpback whales were once almost extinct. ....
  - 4** Humpbacks are very sociable animals. ....
  - 5** Humpbacks aren't very clever hunters. ....
  - 6** To attract a female's attention, male humpbacks perform courtship rituals. ....
  - 7** All whales make sounds, but the male humpback produces long, complex songs. ....
  - 8** The longest humpback whale migration was recorded in 1997. ....
  - 9** All humpbacks sing the same songs. ....
  - 10** A humpback whale spotted off the coast of Australia is completely white. ....
  - 11** There are at least 80,000 humpback whales swimming in the world's oceans. ....
  - 12** Whale watchers rescued a humpback whale in 2011. ....
  - 13** Experts don't exactly know why whales sing. ....
  - 14** Humpback whales have some hairs on their lips, chins, noses, and behind their blowholes. ....
  - 15** During a mating ritual, the number of males competing changes throughout. ....
  - 16** Humpback whales have vocal cords, just like humans. ....
  - 17** Some species of baleen whales keep a few hairs. ....
  - 18** The white humpback whale, Migaloo, is not very popular. ....
  - 19** All toothed whales have a milky-white waxy substance in their heads. ....
  - 20** Killer whales are also called orcas. ....
- 2** Write ten *T/F* statements based on the reader. Swap with a partner and mark the sentences *T/F*. Correct the false statements.



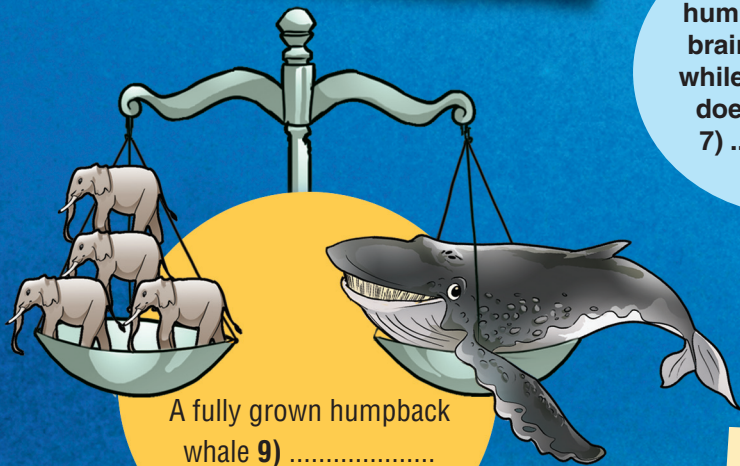
# Amazing facts

## Did you know?

Humpbacks can swim for long periods of time. When they 2) ....., they often travel over 3,000 miles with almost no rest. They can travel over 1,000 miles per month.

The populations of humpbacks in the North Pacific rarely 4) ..... with populations from the South Pacific.

Sometimes humpback whale songs become so popular that they spread across all the 6) ..... of humpbacks in the world.



A fully grown humpback whale 9) ..... about as much as four elephants.

Humpback whales can  
1) .....  
each other's  
songs from  
thousands of  
miles away!



A humpback whale's pectoral fins can be over 15 feet in 3) .....

Humpback whales normally 5) ..... at speeds of 3 to 9 miles per hour, but they can reach up to 16 miles per hour.

Half of the humpback whale's brain stays awake while it sleeps so it doesn't forget to 7) .....

The milk which mother humpback whales 8) ..... their calves is pink.

Each of the humpback whale's 10) ..... are about the size of an orange.

1 Fill in the blanks. Use: weighs, breathe, migrate, swim, eyes, populations, hear, length, feed, breed.

2 **ICT** In groups, collect some more facts about humpback whales. Prepare a Yes/No quiz.

# The Humpback WHALE

Dive into the amazing world of humpback whales and find out what makes these large aquatic mammals so special.

Learn about the magical songs and acrobatic behavior of these gentle giants through stunning images, interesting stories, and fun facts.

## Components

- Reader
- Multi-ROM

## ***DIGI MATERIAL***

**cross-platform application**

(iOS, Android, Windows, MacOSX)



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