

DISCOVER
Our **AMAZING**
WORLD
CLIL READERS

The Killer Whale

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Express Publishing

Whales



Whales are the largest animals that have ever lived on the Earth. Some are even larger than the dinosaurs of prehistoric times. Whales are mammals. Unlike fish, which take in oxygen from the water, whales breathe air through blowholes at the tops of their heads and feed milk to their babies. Millions of years ago, whales probably had legs and walked on the land. Over the millennia, whales evolved to become ocean creatures. Their back legs became powerful tails and their front legs became strong flippers. Now, whales spend their entire lives in the water, and they are the only mammals that have adapted to life in the ocean.





Newborn killer whales don't sleep for a month after birth.

Whales have smooth, streamlined bodies so they can move easily through the sea. Most species of whales have dorsal fins on their backs which cut through the water. They swim by moving their tails up and down and using their flippers to pull themselves through the water. Some species of whales can swim at over 50 kilometers per hour. Sometimes, whales swim quickly up to the surface and blow a jet of water out of their blowholes. The water creates a fountain in the air which is called a 'blow'. Although their bodies are enormous and extremely heavy, whales can lift themselves out of the water and can perform amazing acrobatics in the air above the surface of the ocean.

A Legend

The Sea Wolves

A man was walking along the beach when he noticed two small wolf cubs. The cubs were cold, wet, and hungry, so the man decided to take them home and raise them. Over time, he came to love the cubs as if they were his own children, and they loved him in return. They grew to be very large and strong under his care and protection.

One day, the man and the wolves were walking along the beach. The two wolves wanted to repay the man for his kindness, so they ran out into the ocean. They were very powerful, and soon they found the perfect gift for the man: a whale. They attacked the large creature and killed it, then dragged its body onto the shore. The man was very happy with the gift the wolves had given him. He harvested the whale's meat to eat, and made use of the blubber and bones.

The wolves were proud of their hunting ability. Every day, they would swim into the ocean, kill a whale, and drag it onto the beach. However, the man could not work fast enough to use up all the meat, blubber, and bones of the whales. Soon, the beach was covered with dead whales.

God looked down and saw the whales covering the beach. He became angry at the huge waste of life. He decided to stop the wolves from hunting so many whales. The next morning, when the two wolves went hunting in the sea, God sent a great storm. The waves were very high and a thick fog rose up from the water's surface. The two wolves could not find their way back to shore. The man tried to find them, but the water was too rough and the fog was too thick.

A long time passed, and eventually the wolves' legs were transformed into strong flippers and their tails became very large and powerful. Their bodies became sleek and streamlined so they could swim more quickly. They became the first killer whales. This is why killer whales are called the wolves of the sea. Although they still hunt and kill whales, they also remember the man who raised them. To this day, this is why the killer whale does not harm people.



Word Bank & Activities pp. 56-57 ▶

A Unique Creature

Word Bank

(pp. 8-9)

clear (adj) = easy to see through

cool (adj) = slightly cold

depths (n) = deepest part of a body of water

huge (adj) = very large

creature (n) = animal

glide (v) = to move easily and smoothly

gracefully (adv) = in a smooth, easy way

patch (n) = a small area of a surface

gleam (v) = to shine

enormous (adj) = very large

dorsal fin (n) =



break (v) = to move out of sth

push up (phr v) = to move upward

sunlight (n) = the light from the sun

expose (v) = to allow sth hidden to be seen

mostly (adv) = almost totally

chest (n) = the front area of the body below the shoulders

distinctive (adj) = easy to spot

unique (adj) = one-of-a-kind

leave (sb with) no doubt (phr) = to be quite clear/obvious to sb

powerful (adj) = very strong

predator (n) = an animal which hunts and kills other animals

countershading (n) = the state of being dark on top and light on the bottom

belly (n) = the front area of the body below the chest

blend in (with) (phr v) = to be similar in appearance so as to make it hard to be seen

make sth hard to see (phr) = to cause sth to be difficult to distinguish visually

darkness (n) = the state of being dark

sneak up (phr v) = to approach sth/sb without their knowledge

prey (n) = an animal that is hunted by a predator

(pp. 10-11)

freezing (adj) = very cold

tropical (adj) = very hot

inhabit (v) = to live in a place

commonly found (phr) = usually located

west (adj) = located in the direction where the sun sets

coast (n) = the place where the land meets the sea

rounded (adj) = curved

slightly (adv) = a little

lighter (adj) = more pale

patch of skin (phr) = a small section of the outer layer covering an animal's body

divided (adj) = separated

fluke (n) =



average (adj) = common/normal

male (n) = animal that can't have babies or lay eggs

weigh (v) = to have a weight of

female (n) = the feminine gender

grow a number of meters tall (phr) = to develop a height of a number of meters

triangular (adj) = having a shape with three straight sides and three angles

curved (adj) = not straight

(pp. 12-13)

pale (adj) = light in color

completely (adv) = totally

northern (adj) = located in the north

mistaken from a distance (phr) = to be misidentified when seen from an area far away

species (n) = a type of creature

nearly impossible (phr) = almost not possible

life expectancy (phr) = the length of time that a living thing is likely to live

in captivity (phr) = when wild animals are kept in a park/zoo instead of living in their natural environment

(pp. 14-15)

identify (v) = to determine what sth is

individual (adj) = specific

scratch (n) = a long, thin wound on the surface of the skin

mark (n) = a visible spot on a surface

pattern (n) = markings on a surface

allow (v) = to make it possible for sb to do sth

conservation group (n) = an organization that works toward protecting nature

local populations (phr) = groups of a species in a specific area

estimate (v) = to guess based on known information

life cycle (phr) = the circle of birth, reproduction and death

social structure (phr) = the way a group of people or animals lives together

recent (adj) = having happened not long ago

worldwide (adj) = all over the Earth

population (n) = a group of animals or people

despite (prep) = in spite of; even with

seemingly (adv) = apparently

class (v) = to label sth under a category

vulnerable species (phr) = a type of animal that may become endangered


consider (v) = to believe

endangered (adj) = in danger of becoming extinct

Pre-Reading activities

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

- 1 Killer whales are members of the dolphin family.
- 2 Killer whales hunt other creatures.
- 3 The killer whale is completely black.
- 4 Killer whales are an endangered species.
- 5 The killer whale can easily sneak up on its prey.

b)  Listen, read, and check.

While-Reading activities

2 Read the text and for sentences 1-4 choose the best answers (A, B, C, or D).

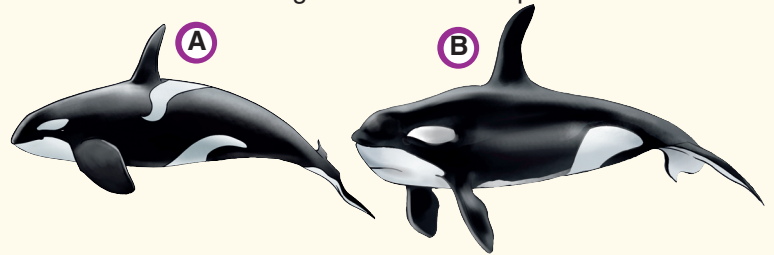
- 1 It is possible to identify individual killer whales
 - A by looking at their saddle patches.
 - B by looking at marks on their fins.
 - C by looking at their tail flukes.
 - D by looking at their teeth.
- 2 The number of killer whales in the Antarctic Ocean is

A about 25,000.	C about 8,500.
B about 2,500.	D about 50,000.
- 3 Male killer whales usually have than females.
 - A smaller pectoral fins
 - B lighter bodies
 - C taller dorsal fins
 - D more white patches
- 4 The killer whale's coloring allows it to easily on prey.

A blend in	C glide gracefully
B push up	D sneak up

3 **SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY:** Using the information from the chapter, write the words/phrases under the correct image.

- weighs 7-10 tons • lives in the Antarctic
- male • 6-8 meters long • female
- lives in the Pacific Ocean • weighs 4-6 tons
- 5-7 meters long • tall dorsal fin • paler saddle



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.....
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After-Reading activities

4 a) Match the following words to make phrases.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------|
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | white |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | life |
| 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | toothed |
| 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | dorsal |
| 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | dolphin |

- | |
|-----------|
| A species |
| B fins |
| C cycles |
| D bellies |
| E whale |

b) Use the phrases from Ex. 4a to complete the summary of the chapter.

The killer whale is the largest member of the 1) and it is a 2) They are quite distinctive in appearance and their dark backs and 3) allow them to easily sneak up on prey. Females have shorter, more curved 4) than males. Scientists can learn about their 5) and social structures by studying local populations.

Review

Listening activities

- 1 Listen to a dialogue about killer whales. For questions 1-3 choose the correct answer A, B, C, or D.

- Why didn't the man watch the documentary?
A He was at work.
B The documentary didn't interest him.
C He wasn't at home.
D He already knows about killer whales.
- Why does the man say, "Well, that's worse"?
A Because he thinks it's bad for whales to kill other whales.
B Because he likes whales more than he likes humans.
C Because whales are bigger than humans.
D Because humans are easier to kill than whales.
- According to the woman, which of these statements is true?
A Killer whales in captivity never hurt humans.
B Killer whales have never hurt a human.
C Killer whales don't mean to hurt humans.
D Killer whales in the wild rarely hurt humans.

Reading activities

- 1 Choose the correct word/phrase in bold.

- Baleen whales get food by **filter feeding/hunting**.
- There are about 8,500 killer whales in the **northeast/tropical** Pacific Ocean.
- Submarines use **sonar/spyhopping** to navigate.
- Killer whales hunt **in groups/alone**.
- Family groups/Clans** of killer whales are led by the oldest female.

- 2 Decide if the following sentences are T (true) or F (false).

- Whales are the only mammals that have adapted to life in the ocean.
- They are among the ocean's most powerful predators.
- The killer whale can leap out of the water and plunge back into the ocean.
- They can stay on land for a long time before wriggling back into the water.
- Killer whales will suffocate if they are beached for too long.
- They have the largest brains of all ocean mammals.
- The killer whale can only communicate using clicking sounds.
- They use body language as a part of courtship rituals.
- They also make rhythmic, repetitive sounds to send messages to each other.
- Female killer whales can live for decades after they stop reproducing.

- 3 Correct the sentences. Use: *legend, problems, scientific, decades, hear*.

- Female killer whales are the only species to live for **days** after they can no longer reproduce.
- Salmon cannot **see** the killer whales' calls.
- Killer whales can solve **puzzles**.
- The **common** name of the killer whale is *Orcinus Orca*.
- According to the **song**, wolves transformed into killer whales.

- 4 Go through the reader and check your answers for Exs 1-3.

Amazing Facts

Did you know?



Killer whales are not called
 1) because they attack
 2), but because they prey on other
 3) of the whale and dolphin family.

Killer whales eat up to 5% of their 4) every day.

The killer whale's brain is four to five times
 5) than a human's brain.

Killer whales spend 60% of their time
 6) for food.



Killer whales are one of the top
 10) in the ocean; they even prey on great white
 11)

The average 7) of a killer whale in the wild is 50-60 years for males and up to 90 years for females. However, the 8) lifespan of a killer whale in 9) is only 20 years.



The ancient Romans called the killer whale
 12), which means demon.

13) warming is increasing the size of the areas where killer whales 14) This is causing killer whales to over-fish and may result in lowering the 15) of fish in these areas.

1 a) **Fill in the gaps. Use:** *larger, killers, global, population, body weight, people, members, foraging, life expectancy, average, captivity, orca, predators, sharks, hunt.*

b) **Listen and check.**

2 **ICT** In groups, collect facts about killer whales. Prepare a Yes/No quiz for your classmates.

The Killer Whale

Take the plunge into the thrilling life of the killer whale! Read about these extraordinary creatures' family relationships, language, and intelligence - including the clever way they fight the most dangerous sharks.

Filled with stories, illustrations and amazing information, this book will allow you to hunt down the facts and figures about one of nature's most fearsome predators... which is also a friend to humans.

Components

- Reader
- Multi-ROM

DIGI MATERIAL

cross-platform application

(iOS, Android, Windows, MacOSX)



Express Publishing

ISBN 978-1-4715-1739-6



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