

# WHALES



## 1. Read:

Whales are amazing animals. They live in oceans all over the world. A whale doesn't like the cold, so it migrates in winter; that is, it moves to warm water. Whales live in large groups called "pods." A baby whale is called a "calf."

A whale can swim fast, turn and jump because it has got flippers on its sides, and a very strong tail. It uses its tail to make sounds, too. It likes jumping out of the water.

There are two types of whales: toothed whales and baleen whales. Toothed whales have got teeth. Baleen whales are also called "toothless" whales. They haven't got teeth; they've got plates made of baleen in their jaws. Baleen is a very hard and strong substance that is similar to the substance in horns and nails. Toothed whales eat fish, animals like seals and plants; baleen whales eat krill and other types of plankton.

## 2. Fill in the blanks with words from the box: (There are two extra words)

MAMMALS	HAVE	ANY	NEED	HAS	DON'T	THEIR
SOME	SINGS	BECAUSE	DOESN'T	USUALLY		

Whales feed milk to their babies and have live birth \_\_\_\_\_. They aren't fish, they are \_\_\_\_\_. They \_\_\_\_\_ have gills, so they can't breathe underwater; they \_\_\_\_\_ air, so they come out of the water to breathe. They breathe through a blowhole or two on \_\_\_\_\_ backs. Toothed whales \_\_\_\_\_ got only one blowhole and baleen ones have got two. When a whale sleeps, it stays on or very near the surface of the water, and only half of the brain is asleep at a time! Whales \_\_\_\_\_ sleep for very short periods of time (15 to 30 minutes).

All whales are very noisy. The sounds a whale makes are called "Whale Song." When it \_\_\_\_\_, its underwater sounds can travel great distances.

The whale is a very big animal. There are \_\_\_\_\_ whales that can be 100 metres long and weigh 200 tonnes! They are called blue whales. There aren't \_\_\_\_\_ animals as big as these whales, they are the biggest in history! Not even dinosaurs were as big as the blue whale!

3. Read everything again and answer the questions:



a. Where do whales live?

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b. What is a pod?

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c. What do whales like doing?

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d. Are there any whales with teeth?

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e. What does a baleen whale eat?

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