

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?

b. What is a pod?

c. What do whales like doing?

d. Are there any whales with teeth?

e. What does a baleen whale eat?
