BLUE WHALES

Nick Bland's Walk of the Whales includes lots of different whales. Complete the comprehension activity below to learn more about blue whales and why the farmers flooded their fields to grow krill.

Blue whales can be found in every ocean in the World except the Arctic. They communicate with complex and mysterious deep sounds that can travel very long distances – up to 16,000kms across the ocean. That is the distance to fly from Sydney to Rome. They are the largest animal to have ever existed and, over their 100 year life span, they can grow up to 30 metres in length and weigh up to 200 tonnes. That is longer than 2 buses and heavier than a Dreamliner aircraft.

Despite living in the water, whales breathe air and nurse their young. They are warm blooded like humans with a thick layer of fat called blubber to insulate them from cold ocean waters.

Blue whales have special bristle-like structures in their mouths called baleen that strain food from the water. They filter feed up to 3,600kgs of krill per day but they only feed for about 120 days each year before migrating to breed.

The blue whale is listed as an endangered species and are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. While they are no longer fished they are still regularly killed by being hit by large ships and by becoming entangled in fishing nets and drowning

1. How large is a blue whale?

2. What do whales eat?

3. How are whales like humans?

4. How can we protect whales?

English - ACELY1703 - Use comprehension strategies to analyse information

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