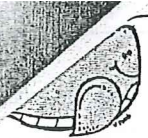


Day 5

Whales



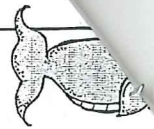
Whales can be longer than a school bus. They have the largest brains found in the world. Whales are one of the greatest divers in the world! Whales are some of the largest animals on Earth. Whales can be found in oceans all over the world. Whales can do spectacular tricks as well in an aquarium!

The largest predator on Earth that has teeth, the sperm whale can reach lengths of up to sixty feet long. These whales can weigh as much as sixty tons or more than twelve thousand pounds! Whales can be described as many different colors such as black and white. They can be gray as well. Whales look like a cylinder that has an end that tapers into a flipper. Dorsal, or back fins, help the whales swim through the water. Flippers help the whale thrust itself through the water and steer it. The tail fluke on the end of the whale powers a whale to swim up to twenty three miles per hour. Whales have a blow hole that is used for breathing. Whales hold their breath under water.

A carnivore is an animal that eats meat only. An herbivore is an animal that eats plant only. Most whales are carnivores. They are predators. Predators are animals that chase and kill other animals for food. Prey is an animal or animals that a predator chases for food. Carnivorous whales eat seals, sea lions, fish, and other whales. Polar bears and moose have been found in the stomachs of whales. Baleen whales are herbivores. They eat plankton which is a small plant that grows in the ocean.

Whales are mammals. They give birth to their young. Whale babies are called calves. They are not born in eggs. Mammals drink milk from their mothers. Calves can spend many years with their mother. Calves learn how to swim with their mothers. They also learn how to hunt and eat with their mothers.

Whales



Write three facts about whales by using the passage.

2. Write three opinions about whales using the text to form your opinions.

3. How would you describe a whale to someone who could not see?

4. What is a carnivore? Name three carnivores by using the definition and applying it to what you know about animals.

5. What is an herbivore?

6. The author used the sentence in paragraph four: They are not born in eggs. Why did the author use this sentence in this paragraph?

7. What makes whales a mammal?

8. What is the purpose of a tail fluke? Flippers?

9. Where can whales be found?

10. What is a blow hole used for?

11. Can whales breathe under water? Why or why not?

12. Thinking about what a whale looks like, define the word cylinder.