

Science Story Adventures



Whales

Learning outcomes

» Students know plants and animals have structures that serve different functions in growth, survival, and reproduction. (3rd Grade – Life Sciences)

» Students know how to infer what animals eat from the shapes of their teeth. (1st Grade – Life Sciences)

From: California's Science Content Standards

Books we read

Baby Whale's Journey by Jonathan London

Whales Passing by Eve Bunting

Activities we did

» We examined an orca skull and whale baleen, and, then, talked about how different types of whales feed and what they eat.

» We compared whale flipper bones to human arm and hand bones.

» We listened to orca calls and talked about how whales find food and communicate with each other.

Today's craft: Orca Hat

You will need:

- » Orca hat templates
- » Black construction paper
- » White colored pencils
- » Scissors
- » Paper plates
- » Hole punchers
- » Glue
- » Black yarn
- » Black crayons



Directions:

1. Print and cut out the orca hat templates. Trace them on black construction paper using a white colored pencil and cut them out.
2. Punch two holes on opposite sides of a paper plate. Attach lengths of yarn to each of these holes. The yarn ends will tie under your chin to hold the hat on when it is done.
3. Glue the fluke to the back of the plate.
4. Glue the straight edge of each flipper on each side of the plate near the yarn.
5. The dorsal fin has a notch in it that should be cut. Fold one of the flaps one way and the other one in the opposite direction. Put glue on the bottom of each flap and place it in the middle of the bottom of the plate with the fin curving back toward the tail.

Adapted from <http://www.seaworld.org/just-for-teachers/lisa/i-027/pdf/k-3.pdf>

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

Amazing Whales! By Sarah L. Thomson. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL737 .C4 T46 2005

They can be as big as a fire truck. Some can hold their breath for more than an hour. They feed using teeth or baleen. Learn these and other amazing whale facts in this easy reader.

Ballenas asesinas por Seymour Simon. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL737. C432 S5518 2006

Swim the oceans with these wolves of the sea in this easy reader in Spanish. Action-packed photos bring the killer whales up-close.

How Whales Walked Into the Sea. By Faith McNulty. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL737 .C4 M37 1999

Follow the path of how whales actually evolved from land mammals that returned to the sea.

The Whale's Song by Dyan Sheldon. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL737 .C4 S43 1991 (also available in Spanish:

El Canto de las Ballenas por Dyan Sheldon. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL737.C4 S4318 1993)

A young girl learns about the wonders of whale song from her grandmother and seeks to hear them herself.

The Whaling Season: A Year in the Life of an Arctic Whale Scientist. by Peter Lourie. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL737 .C423 L68 2009

Travel to Barrow, Alaska where the scientist John Craighead George lives and works. With the help of members of the Iñupiaq community, he studies bowhead whales.

Wonderful Whales. by Bobbie Kalman. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL737. C4 K2556 2006

An overview of whales--where they live, what they eat, how they communicate, and the dangers they face. Engaging text is accompanied by vivid photos.

DVDs

Kingdom of the Blue Whale. Nat. Ctr. Media QL737.C424 K55 2009

Follow along with renowned blue whale scientists as they identify and tag migrating blue whales traveling from California to the Costa Rica Dome. Includes new insights and rare footage of this majestic animal.

Websites

Blue Whale Interactive

Ever wondered exactly how a blue whale feeds or communicates. Want to identify all of the parts of a blue whale? This interactive created by National Geographic can help you answer these questions and more. Includes links to information about other whales.

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/blue-whale-interactive/>

Center for Whale Research

This website details the work of an organization that has been studying orcas off the coast of Washington since 1976. Includes videos, photos and fact sheets about orcas.

<http://www.whaleresearch.com/>

Cetacean Curriculum

A series of hands-on lesson plans designed by the American Cetacean Society to discover all you ever wanted to know about whales, dolphins and porpoises.

<http://www.acsonline.org/education/curriculum/index.html>

Gentle Giants of the Salish Sea

A series of interactive lessons called, "What is a Mammal?," "The Order Called Cetacea," and "The Ocean and the Salish Sea." Created by the Whale Museum.

<http://www.whalemuseum.org/ggss/demo.html>

Orca Hat Templates

