

Name: _____

Whales



There are two main types of whale, toothed and baleen.

Baleen whales are generally larger than toothed whales and tend to be solitary mammals – this means they mainly travel alone. Toothed whales have one blowhole, unlike baleen whales who have two and are generally social mammals. Toothed whales are also incredibly fast and can work together to catch prey.

The name 'toothed whales' can be a little misleading, because dolphins and porpoises also belong to this group. It does not only describe the big creatures that come to your mind when you think of whales, but also their smaller relatives.

Name: _____



Orca Comprehension

Orcas, also known as killer whales, are one of the most powerful predators to roam the world's oceans. They can be found travelling in their pods through the warm waters around the equator, as well as the glacier-filled oceans in the polar regions. Up to 40 orcas can be found travelling in a pod.

Orcas are distinctive because of their black and white colour but actually, depending on the oceans they inhabit, can have different characteristics, behaviours, diet and ways of communicating.

Killer whales are toothed whales and snack on a range of prey. They eat dolphins, birds, seals, sea lions, sharks, rays, octopus, squid and large whales. They hunt using echolocation, which means that they send out clicks and the sounds bounce off animals and return to the orca's lower jaw.

Did you know? An orca is actually a dolphin and not a whale at all!

Teaching
Cave

Questions

1. What can you tell me about the way in which orcas travel?
2. What does 'glacier filled oceans' mean?
3. What do orcas eat?
4. What is echolocation and why is it used?
5. Which word in the text means the same as 'travel'?
6. What do you think the word 'inhabit' means?
7. What else did you find out from the text?
8. Orcas travel in pods. What does this suggest about them?

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Questions

1. What is another name for a killer whale?
2. What can you tell me about the way in which orcas travel?
3. What do orcas eat?
4. How many orcas can be in a pod?
5. How would you recognise an orca?
6. What is echolocation?
7. What else did you learn from reading the text?

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Orca Comprehension

Orcas, also known as killer whales, are one of the most powerful animals in the world's oceans. They can be found travelling in their pods through warm waters as well as the freezing Arctic and Southern oceans. Up to 40 orcas can be found travelling in a pod.

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2. What word is used to describe orcas?
3. What do orcas eat?
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Complete the sentences

1. An orca is also known as a _____.
2. Orcas are _____ animals.
3. Orcas eat _____ and _____.
4. Up to _____ orcas can be in a pod.
5. Orcas are _____ and _____ in colour.

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