

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.



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 returns to the orca's lower jaw.

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

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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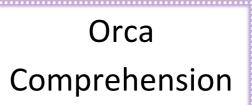
sounds bounce off animals and returns to the orca's lower jaw.

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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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