

Create an Ocean for Whales

Explore whale habitats by making a collage!

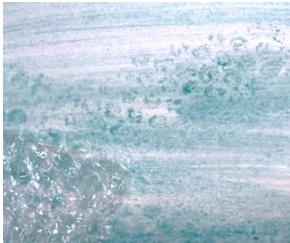
Materials:

Whales printable (or draw your own), blank paper, watercolor paint, wide paintbrush, bubble wrap, yarn, tissue paper, water, glue, coloring supplies.
Optional: Salt, other craft materials (sequins, pipe cleaners, etc.).



Paint an ocean onto your paper with a wide paintbrush. Use mainly blue paint. You can add small amounts of green or purple to create different shades.

Create Different Effects:



Press bubble wrap onto the painted paper to make a bubble print. Paint color onto the bubble wrap and then press onto the painted paper. Experiment to create different effects!

Hint: This technique works best with less water. If your paper is too wet, blot away excess water with a paper towel.



Sprinkle salt on your watercolor. Let dry; once it is completely dry, shake off the salt. The salt will leave a textured effect on your ocean.

Glue tissue paper and yarn to decorate your ocean. Add other craft materials that you have (sequins, pipe cleaners, stickers, draw your own, etc.).

Cut out and **color** your whales. **Glue** them to the background and let them swim in the ocean!

Whales Printable



Humpback whale



Beluga whale



gray whale



Killer whale



Humpback whale



Beluga whale



gray whale



Killer whale

Explore Sounds and Songs of Whales!

Explore different whale sounds and songs with an interactive poster (NOAA):

archive.fisheries.noaa.gov/afsc/News/Alaska-Marine-Mammal-Acoustic-Studies/index.html

Toothed whale such as killer whales, dolphins, and sperm whales use echolocation to find food. They produce a sound that bounces off the prey and is sent back to them. This lets them know where to find it. The sperm whale is the loudest animal on Earth, with vocalizations as loud as 230 decibels!

Learn more about sperm whales and echolocation with the Wild Kratts (PBS):

www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxYS3gEzR7c



Sperm whales.

Image: NOAA Northeast Fisheries Center.



Beluga whales make many different kinds of sounds, including chirps, moos, clicks, squeals, or whistles. They are known as the “canary of the sea”!

Discover beluga whales with NOAA’s Ocean Today:

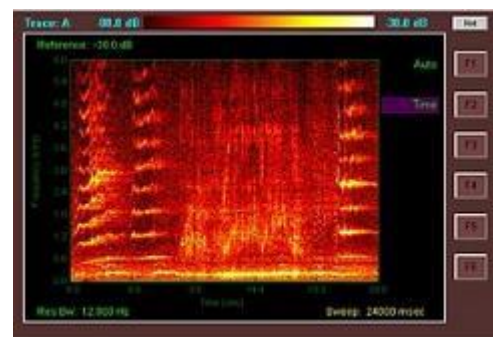
oceantoday.noaa.gov/animalsoftheice_belugawhale

Left: Beluga whale seen from underwater. Image: NOAA Photo Library.

Baleen whales are known to use sound and songs to communicate with each other. Humpback whales are famous for their diverse song patterns. Scientists are still trying to understand more about why whales sing these songs!

Watch a video visualizing humpback whale songs (Smithsonian Magazine):

www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/what-whale-songs-look-sheet-music-180956813/



Spectrogram of Humpback whale vocalizations. Image: Wikimedia Commons.

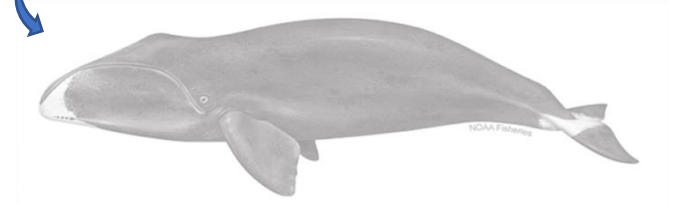
Whale Fun Facts



Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) has the longest pectoral fin of any whale. *Megaptera* means “big-winged” in Latin.



Bowhead whale (*Balaena mysticetus*) can live to be over 200 years old. It uses its bowhead-shaped skull to break through sea ice.



Sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*) has the largest brain and loudest vocalizations of any animal on Earth.



Narwhal (*Mondon Monoceros*) males grow a spiral tooth used for competition and sensing their environment.



Gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*) migrates more than 10,000 miles, the longest migration of any mammal.



Fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*) is the second largest whale species on Earth.



Orca (*Orcinus orca*) is also known as the killer whale and hunts with others, like a pack of wolves. This whale swallows small seals and sea lions whole!



Beluga whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*) uses echolocation to find food and is known for making many different kinds of sounds including moos, clicks, chirps, squeals, and whistles.



Blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) is the largest animal ever to live on our planet, feeding mainly on tiny krill and eating up to 6 tons a day!

Note: Images are not to scale.