

WHALES





Top of the Food Chain

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- Whales belong to the order of mammals called Cetacea



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- Baleen Whales - filter feeders that eat plankton and small fish
 - Types: Blue, Finback, Humpback, and Gray Whales





Humpback Whale

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- Baleen Whales open their mouths and take in enormous amounts of water containing zooplankton
 - As the water is forced into the whale it passes through overlapping plates of fibrous material called baleen
 - The baleen acts as a filter taking all the small organisms needed for feeding



Humpback Whales

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- Toothed Whales - they have peg like teeth used to catch fish, seals, and penguins
 - Types: Sperm, Killer (Orca), Pilot, and Beluga Whales





Orca Whale

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- After catching their prey they usually swallow it whole





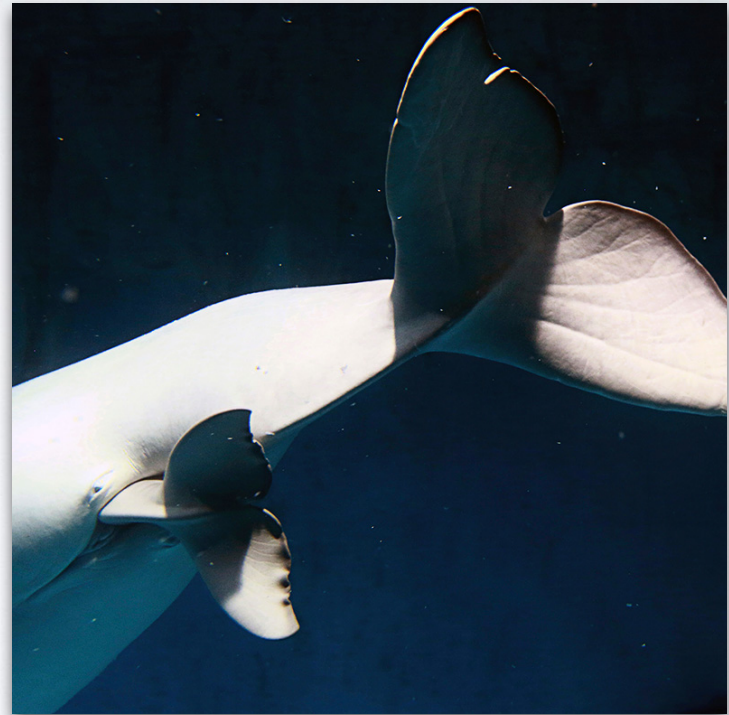
Killer Whale Hunting



Killer Whales Hunting

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- Reproduction:
 - Fertilization and development is internal
 - Gestation is 11 to 18 months depending on the species
 - Whales breed about every three years and generally birth one calf at a time



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- Reproduction: (continued)
 - Mothers provide parental care for their young
 - Mother push young to the surface to take first breath



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- Breathing:
 - Uses the blowhole, which is a giant nostril



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- Movement:
 - Top speed of 55 km/hour
 - Propulsion is from the up and down motion of the tail



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- Movement: (continued)
 - Spyhopping - when a whale raises its head above the water's surface to look around for a few seconds





Spyhopping

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- Movement: (continued)
 - Lobtailing - when whales wave their tails and smash it on the waters surface





Lobtailing

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- Movement: (continued)
 - Breaching - when a whale is nearly completely out of the water

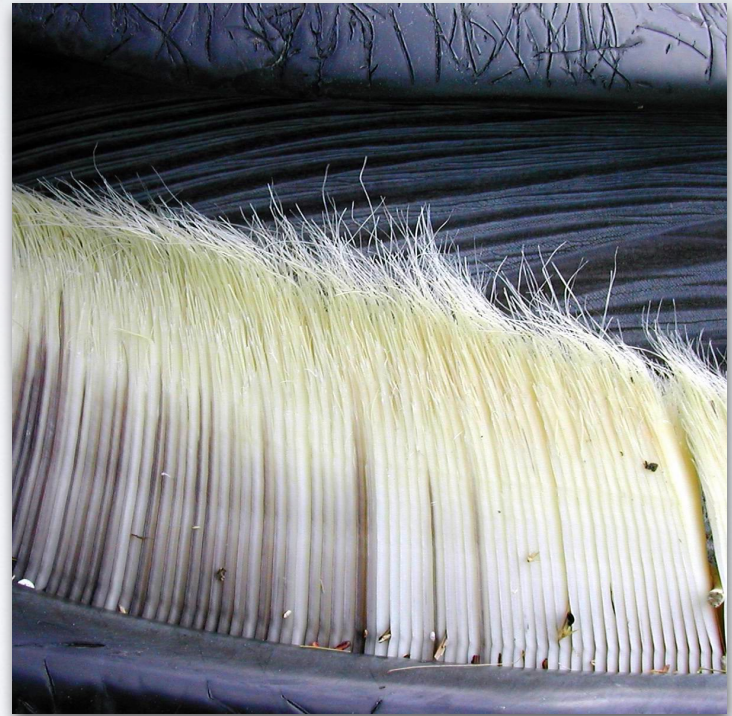




Breaching

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- Migration:
 - Whales migrate as far as 12,000 km to follow nutrient rich waters where plankton exist



WHALES

- Characteristics:
 - Blubber - thick layers of fat that can exceed 60 centimeters that are used to keep warm in colder waters



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- Communication:
 - Whales use a series of clicks and sounds
 - Echolocation - form of sonar that bounces off object and return a location
 - They produce songs





Whale Communication