

# Whales and Dolphins

1. What is baleen and what is it used for?

2. How has the gray whale population changed since the 1870s?

3. What do gray whales do in the winter? in spring? in the summer?

4. Why are gray whales called "suckers"?

5. Why didn't whalers hunt fin whales until steam ships were invented?

6. How big is the heart of a blue whale? How big is the largest blood vessel?

7. What happened to the blue whale in the Antarctic in 1931?

8. How can one humpback whale be identified from another humpback?

9. What are 4 of the greatest dangers that face whales today?

10. What is the purpose of the melon on a tooth whale's head?

11. Where are beluga whales found?

12. Why is it an advantage for the beluga not to have a dorsal fin? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Why are belugas in the The St. Lawrence River likely to become extinct?

14. Why is an orca's job as "top predator" so important in the oceans?

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15. Who is the "alpha" member of the orca pod?

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16. How long is the pregnancy of an Orca? How many calves does a female have in a lifetime? How old is an Orca when it breeds?

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17. Why have the number of spotted and spinner dolphins decreased over the past 40 years?

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18. What is "dolphin safe" tuna? \_\_\_\_\_

19. How deep do common dolphins dive? What do they eat?

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20. How are sperm whale calves protected when their mother is feeding?

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21. How long do sperm whales dive for? How deep will they dive?

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22. Why were sperm whales hunted in the past? Approximately how many were killed?

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23. Name two types of "play" that bottlenose dolphins like to do.

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24. How long will bottlenose dolphin calves remain with their mother?

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25. Name two reasons that harbor porpoise populations have dramatically decreased in recent years?

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26. Why is the harbor porpoise called the "puffing pig"?

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