

Ocean 11

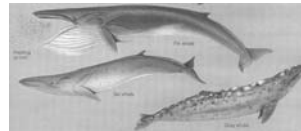
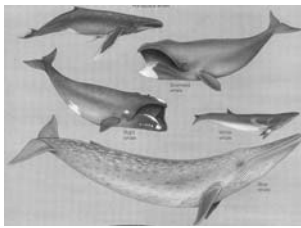
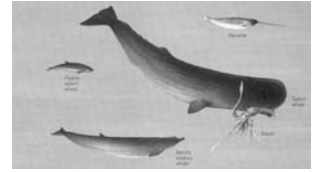
Whales 1

Whales

Whales belong to the mammalian order *Cetacea*. There are about 80 species that inhabit all oceans, as well as a few larger rivers. They are the best adapted of all aquatic mammals. Smaller porpoises are less than 2 metres long and weigh only a few tens of kilograms.

The great blue whale can be up to 30 metres long and weigh more than 100 tons. The body is elongate and superficially looks like a fish, but the tail has horizontal flukes. Neither the tail, nor the dorsal fin is supported by a bony skeleton. The two paddle-like front limbs are called flippers or pectoral fins and are supported by short arm bones and many extra finger bones.

The external ear openings are small holes on either side of the head. The nostrils are situated on top of the head instead of near the front, as in most mammals. Their skin is smooth and somewhat rubbery to the touch.



There are two living suborders; whales with baleen and whales with teeth.

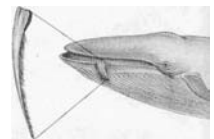
The baleen consists of a series of blades or plates formed from keratin, a material similar to human fingernails. The fingered inner edges of these plates form a sieve or mat against which prey organisms become trapped, as seawater is forced out of the mouth.

In the narwhal, one tooth of males becomes a highly developed tusk, protruding outside the mouth.

Baleen

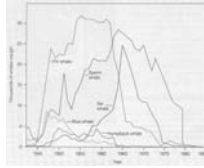


Baleen



Year	Number of Whales	Year	Number of Whales
1947	31	1953	81,201
1947.5	36	1954	63,000
1948	176	1955	37,800
1949	359	1956	52,200
1950	759	1957	65,000
1951	1,367	1958	61,700
1952	2,061	1959	61,000
1953	3,067	1975	56,771
1954	4,226	1976	55,325
1955	60,073	1977	50,000
1956	8,408	1978	47,000
1957	16,777	1979	46,000
1958	25,983	1980	45,000
1959	36,867	1981	44,000
1960	44,657	1982	43,000
1961	53,843	1983	42,000
1962	64,201	1984	41,000
1963	81,041	1985	40,000
1964	96,000	1986	39,000
1965	111,079	1987	38,000
1966	127,000	1988	37,000
1967	143,000	1989	36,000
1968	159,000	1990	35,000
1969	175,000	1991	34,000
1970	191,000	1992	33,000
1971	207,000	1993	32,000
1972	223,000	1994	31,000
1973	239,000	1995	30,000
1974	255,000	1996	29,000
1975	271,000	1997	28,000
1976	287,000	1998	27,000
1977	303,000	1999	26,000
1978	319,000	2000	25,000
1979	335,000	2001	24,000
1980	351,000	2002	23,000
1981	367,000	2003	22,000
1982	383,000	2004	21,000
1983	399,000	2005	20,000
1984	415,000	2006	19,000
1985	431,000	2007	18,000
1986	447,000	2008	17,000
1987	463,000	2009	16,000
1988	479,000	2010	15,000
1989	495,000	2011	14,000
1990	511,000	2012	13,000
1991	527,000	2013	12,000
1992	543,000	2014	11,000
1993	559,000	2015	10,000
1994	575,000	2016	9,000
1995	591,000	2017	8,000
1996	607,000	2018	7,000
1997	623,000	2019	6,000
1998	639,000	2020	5,000
1999	655,000	2021	4,000
2000	671,000	2022	3,000
2001	687,000	2023	2,000
2002	703,000	2024	1,000
2003	719,000	2025	1,000
2004	735,000	2026	1,000
2005	751,000	2027	1,000
2006	767,000	2028	1,000
2007	783,000	2029	1,000
2008	799,000	2030	1,000
2009	815,000	2031	1,000
2010	831,000	2032	1,000
2011	847,000	2033	1,000
2012	863,000	2034	1,000
2013	879,000	2035	1,000
2014	895,000	2036	1,000
2015	911,000	2037	1,000
2016	927,000	2038	1,000
2017	943,000	2039	1,000
2018	959,000	2040	1,000
2019	975,000	2041	1,000
2020	991,000	2042	1,000
2021	1,007,000	2043	1,000
2022	1,023,000	2044	1,000
2023	1,039,000	2045	1,000
2024	1,055,000	2046	1,000
2025	1,071,000	2047	1,000
2026	1,087,000	2048	1,000
2027	1,103,000	2049	1,000
2028	1,119,000	2050	1,000

Whale Catches 1945-1985



Whale Migration

Some whales spend the spring off the coast of New England, where they eat plenty of plankton.

In the early summer, they head north to the breeding and nursery area in the Bay of Fundy and in areas south of Nova Scotia.

In the winter, some of the adult females migrate to the coastal waters off the southern United States. They particularly like the shallow waters from Georgia to Florida. Very few juveniles or males migrate to this region.

Often, females are alone early in the season. The calves are generally born between December and March. This is the only known area for calving for some whales. It is unknown where the non-pregnant females go.

Video: Whales

34 minutes



Video: Whale Rescue

44 minutes



Next: Whale 2