

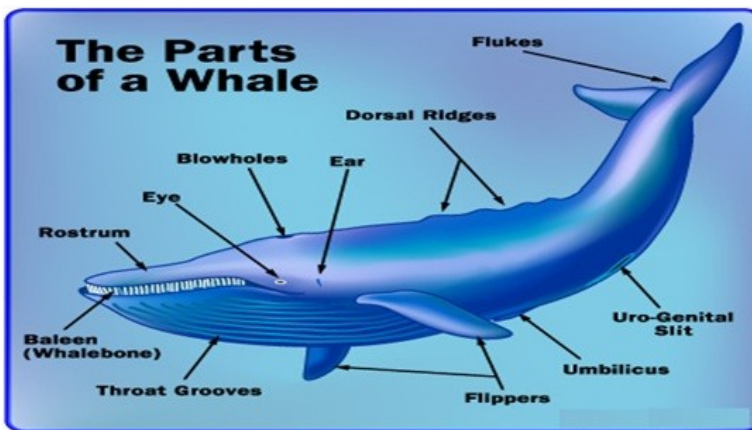
# The Blue Whale!

Did you know?....



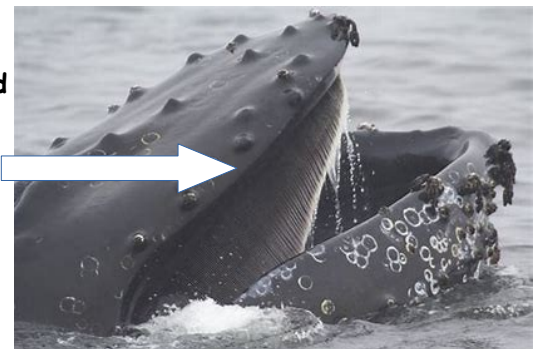
\* The Blue whale is the largest animal to have ever lived on Earth. The blue whale can grow to over 30m long and weigh more than 130,000kg - that's longer than three buses and heavier than three lorries!

\* Pretty much everything about the blue whale is huge. It's tongue weighs as much as an elephant and its heart is the size of a car. Wow Wee



\* Blue whales can be found in all of our planet's oceans, except the Arctic, usually swimming alone or in groups of two to four. But in areas where there's lots of food available, as many as 60 whales may come together.

\* These marine giants are a species of 'baleen' whale. Instead of having teeth, they have baleen, a fibrous material used to filter their food. When eating, the whale lets a huge volume of water and krill into its mouth. It then pushes the water through its 300-400 baleen plates, which trap the tasty grub to be swallowed. Gulp!



\* Despite their humongous size, blue whales eat tiny shrimp-like crustaceans called krill. But they shift a fair few of these seafood snacks - up to 40 million each day, in fact!

\* To communicate with each other, blue whales make a series of super-loud vocal sounds. Their calls are the loudest of any creature on the planet, in fact, and can be heard underwater for hundreds of kilometres. You can hear it here - <https://youtu.be/4SujL16F1U4>

\* These awesome mammals follow a seasonal migration pattern. During the feeding season, they fill up on krill in cold polar waters. They then travel thousands of miles from one location to the next. The journey can last for up to 4 months depending on where they are going. These beautiful creatures travel an average of 3 - 6 miles per hour during their migration, however they can reach speeds of over 30 miles per hour for short bursts.

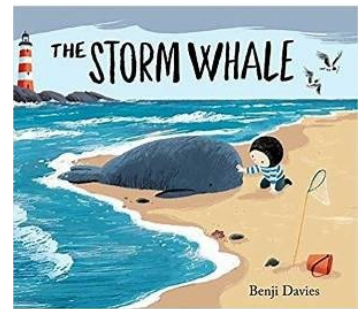
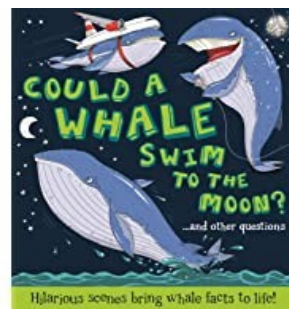
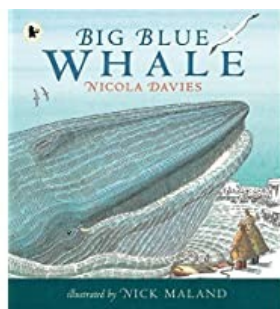
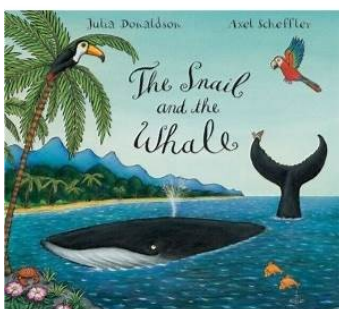


\* At birth, a baby blue whale calf can measure around 8m long and weigh a massive 4,000kg! They grow quickly, too - for seven to eight months, these bulky babies drink their mother's rich, fatty milk, and gain around 90kg each day! The mother will help the calf to breath by lifting it up to the surface.

There are so many books you can read that include whales and here is a list of some of them. You maybe able to download them for free or rent them from your local library when it is open...



Have you got a favourite book with a whale in or could you make a story up?



Hope you all enjoyed reading these fun facts about whales, maybe you could find out some more information with your grown ups and let us know. Or how about having a go at drawing a whale?? There are possibly up to 90 different species of whales, YES 90!!!! lots of love Mrs Bence x

