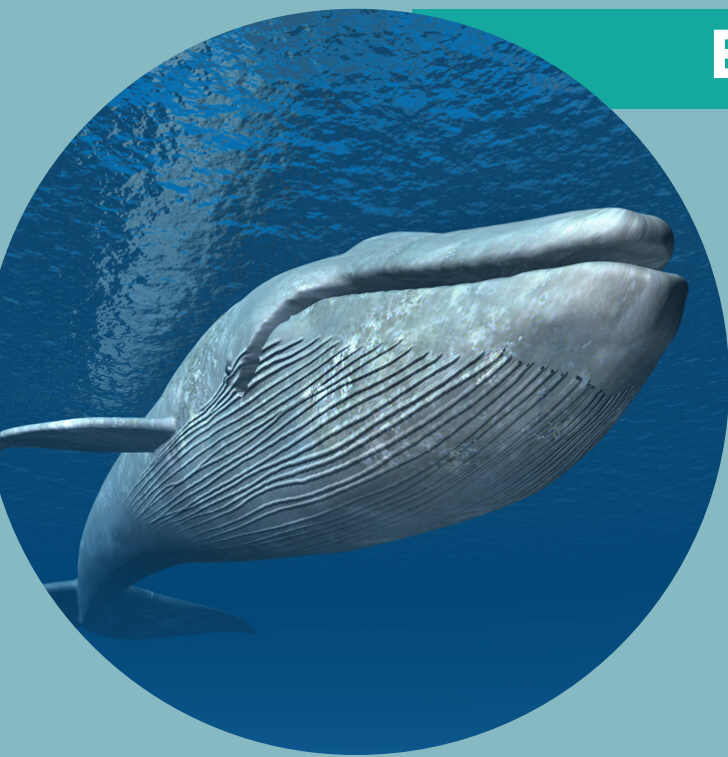


# WHALES

## ENORMOUS CREATURES



The largest animal on Earth is the Blue Whale measuring up to 30 metres and 173 tonnes with an average life span of 80 years. Whales can be aged by counting the layers of their earwax. The second largest whale species is the Fin Whale at 20 metres long.

## FAMILY MATTERS

Whales, dolphins and porpoises all belong to the same group of animals called cetaceans. These creatures are mammals like us, which are warm-blooded, breathe air, give birth to live young and feed their babies milk. Whale calves will stay with their mother for 1 to 3 years.



## BALEEN VS. TEETH

All whales can be placed into one of two groups based on mouth features and feeding strategies. Baleen whales are generally larger, and use a filter-like structure to sift small food from large mouthfuls of water. Toothed whales such as orcas have varying numbers of teeth and eat larger prey.



## SEA SOUNDS

Many whales produce beautiful and diverse whale songs. Sperm whales make the loudest sounds and are also thought to use echolocation to find their prey, by creating sounds which bounce off objects and detecting them using an organ in their head called a melon.

