

Whale Research

Define: What do I want to know?

Key questions to research

Students can choose one or more of the following questions or come up with their own:

- What are some unique features of whales?
- Why do whales migrate? Where can they be seen throughout the year?
- How do whales communicate with each other?
- How have people around the world used whales in the past? How is this different today? Why do you think it changed?
- How were whales used in the past in Australia? How is this different to today? Why did it change?
- Why conserve and protect whales? What is being done?
- How have people's attitudes towards whales changed over the years?

Locate: Where do I find the information?

What resources will help answer my questions? (Internet, people, resource centre, organisations, print). Discuss with students what a reliable source is.

Select: What information is important for the investigation?

Students may need support to sort through and select relevant information.

Organise: How do I make sense of the information?

Students can organise their research by creating main headings from their questions. Write each heading on a separate piece of paper. Record the information found for each question.

Present: How do we let others know about this information?

Each group needs to discuss then decide on the best way to present the information. Possibilities could include:

- A 'Did You Know' Facts sheet
- Infographic
- Oral presentation
- [Prezi](#) presentation
- Create an infographic using [Canva](#)

Evaluate: What have we learnt?

Each group reflects on what they have learnt about whales during their investigation. Students will reflect on their learning and respond to the following.

- What I learned...
- What I found surprising...

ACTIVITY


Research Project

Students will choose a species of whale to research in depth. Species include:

- Humpback whale
- Southern Right whale
- Blue whale
- Minke whale
- Killer whale

Students will include a description of the species, habitat, adaptations and conservation status. They will also draw a labelled diagram of the whale.

Encourage students to use a range of sources to find their information. Students will use the [Research Project worksheet](#) to organise and present their information.



RESEARCH PROJECT: Whale species

Research project – Whale species	
Scientific and common name	
Description	
Diet	
Describe its habitat Locate where this species can be found using Google Maps	
How does it survive in its environment? What are some of its adaptations?	
Conservation Status If this species is threatened or endangered, what are its threats?	
Interesting facts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is your favourite thing about this species? What surprised you about your research? 	
Labelled diagram	

ACTIVITY

Visual literacy

Below is a collection of photographs and artworks of whaling in Australia. Look at the image and then respond to the following questions:

- What is happening in the image? Describe what you can see.
- When do you think the image was created? Why?
- If there are people in the image who do you think they are? How do you think they might be feeling?
- What question/s would you like to ask the people in the image?
- What does the image tell you about whaling?
- How does the image make you feel?

After you have responded to the above questions click on the link for each image to find out what is happening and compare to your responses.



[Link to image](#)



[Link to image](#)



[Link to image](#)



[Link to image](#)



ACTIVITY

How do whales communicate?

Whale songs are one of the most sophisticated communication systems in the animal kingdom. [Watch this Ted Ed video](#) and answer the following questions:

- Which species of whale are known to sing?
- How long can whales sing for?
- Why do they sing?
- What impact can noise pollution have on the whales?
- Name three interesting facts you learnt watching the video.



USEFUL WEBSITES

National Museum Australia – Start of Whaling

http://www.nma.gov.au/online_features/defining_moments/featured/start-of-whaling

BTN -Whaling

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s4005245.htm>

BTN – Beached Whales

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s4620501.htm>

BTN – Which whale is which activity

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/extracontent/2013/whaling/whales.pdf>