

Questions

1. How far away can the song of a humpback whale be heard? Tick one.

- 19 metres
- 20 miles
- 20 metres
- 19 miles

2. Fill in the missing word in this sentence.

Humpbacks are friendly creatures and are _____ with whale watchers.

3. What is the colour of a humpback whale's body?

4. Tick true or false for the following statements.

	True	False
Female humpbacks are larger than males.		
Calves are about 12 metres in length when born.		
Humpbacks feed in warm waters.		
Humpback whales are friendly creatures.		

5. How long do humpback whales sing a song for? Tick one.

- 36 minutes
- 12 minutes
- 20 minutes
- 20 hours

6. Why do you think another name for humpback whales is 'giant wings'?

7. How long can humpback whales hold their breath for? Tick one.

- 45 seconds
- 45 minutes
- 50 minutes
- 100 seconds

Answers

1. How far away can the song of a humpback whale be heard? Tick one.

- 19 metres
 20 miles
 20 metres
 19 miles

2. Fill in the missing word in this sentence.

Humpbacks are friendly creatures and are **popular** with whale watchers.

3. What is the colour of a humpback whale's body?

The colour of a humpback whales body is black.

4. Tick true or false for the following statements.

	True	False
Female humpbacks are larger than males.	✓	
Calves are about 12 metres in length when born.		✓
Humpbacks feed in warm waters.		✓
Humpback whales are friendly creatures.	✓	

5. How long do humpback whales sing a song for? Tick one.

- 36 minutes
 12 minutes
 20 minutes
 20 hours

6. Why do you think another name for humpback whales is 'giant wings'?

Accept answers that refer to the humpback's long fins, such as: I think humpback whales are also called 'giant wings' because they have long fins which look like wings.

7. How long can humpback whales hold their breath for? Tick one.

- 45 seconds
 45 minutes
 50 minutes
 100 seconds

Questions

1. How many humpbacks are thought to be alive today? Tick one.

- 800
 8000
 80,000
 8

2. Fill in the missing word in this sentence.

Humpbacks are friendly and _____ and are a popular species amongst whale watchers.

3. What other heavy animal is the humpback whale compared to?

4. Tick true or false for the following statements.

	True	False
Male humpbacks are lighter than females.		
Baby humpback whales are called colts.		
Humpbacks eat mostly small fish.		
Humpbacks are famous for 'breaching'.		

5. For what length of time can a humpback's song last? Tick one.

- 36 minutes
 12 minutes
 20 minutes
 20 hours

6. Why do you think that the scientific name for humpback whales is 'megaptera noveangliae'?

7. How do we know that humpback whales are friendly and sociable mammals? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

8. What are humpback whales famous for? Tick one.

- their playful behaviour
- their diet
- their age
- their predators

Answers

1. How many humpbacks are thought to be alive today? Tick one.

- 800
 8000
 80,000
 8

2. Fill in the missing word in this sentence.

Humpbacks are friendly and **curious creatures** and are a popular species amongst whale watchers.

3. What other heavy animal is the humpback whale compared to?

Another heavy animal that the humpback is compared to is an elephant.

4. Tick true or false for the following statements.

	True	False
Male humpbacks are lighter than females.	✓	
Baby humpback whales are called colts.		✓
Humpbacks eat mostly small fish.	✓	
Humpbacks are famous for 'breaching'.	✓	

5. For what length of time can a humpback's song last? Tick one.

- 36 minutes
 12 minutes
 20 minutes
 20 hours

6. Why do you think that the scientific name for humpback whales is 'megaptera noveangliae'?

Accept answers which explain that 'megaptera noveangliae' means 'giant wings' and refers to the humpback's fins e.g. Megaptera noveangliae means 'giant wings' and humpback's have very long fins which look a lot like wings.

7. How do we know that humpback whales are friendly and sociable mammals? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Accept answers which refer to the text, such as: 'Humpbacks have been observed interacting with other species...' This tells me that humpback whales are friendly and like being with other sea creatures.

8. What are humpback whales famous for? Tick one.

- their playful behaviour**
- their diet
- their age
- their predators

Questions

1. Find and copy a word which means the same as **curious**.

2. What adjectives are used to describe humpback whales? Tick two.

- acrobatic
- delightful
- unique
- speedy

3. Tick true or false for the following statements.

	True	False
Humpback whales look similar to other whales.		
Mothers carry their calves for 6 months.		
Humpbacks travel to warmer waters to give birth.		
Scientists know why humpback whales enjoy breaching.		

4. Why do you think the author chose to compare the weight of a humpback whale to six elephants?

5. What is the collective noun for a group of whales?

6. Why do you think that the scientific name for humpback whales is 'megaptera noveangliae'?

7. Explain why humpback whales have a distinctive appearance.

8. Fill in the missing words in this sentence.

Humpbacks have been observed interacting with other species and they have even been seen protecting _____ such as sharks and killer whales.

Answers

1. Find and copy a word which means the same as **curious**.

inquisitive

2. What adjectives are used to describe humpback whales? Tick two.

- acrobatic**
 delightful
 unique
 speedy

3. Tick true or false for the following statements.

	True	False
Humpback whales look similar to other whales.		✓
Mothers carry their calves for 6 months.		✓
Humpbacks travel to warmer waters to give birth.	✓	
Scientists know why humpback whales enjoy breaching.		✓

4. Why do you think the author chose to compare the weight of a humpback whale to six elephants?

Accept answers which refer to the fact that elephants are very big, heavy animals and so it emphasises how heavy humpback whales are, such as: I think the author chose to compare the weight of a humpback whale to six elephants because elephants are really heavy animals so it helps us understand how heavy a humpback whale must be.

5. What is the collective noun for a group of whales?

a pod

6. Why do you think that the scientific name for humpback whales is 'megaptera noveangliae'?

Accept answers which explain that 'megaptera noveangliae' means 'giant wings' and refers to the humpback's fins, such as: Megaptera noveangliae means 'giant wings' and so tells us that humpbacks have very long fins.

7. Explain why humpback whales have a distinctive appearance.

Accept answers which refer to the text, such as: Humpback whales have a distinctive appearance because they have an unusual shaped head (large and knobby) and other special features including the longest fins of all marine mammals._____

8. Fill in the missing words in this sentence.

Humpbacks have been observed interacting with other species and they have even been seen protecting **other cetacea from predators** such as sharks and killer whales.

Humpback Whales

Humpback whales are very large and can grow up to 19 metres long. They are famous for their magical songs which can be heard from over 20 miles away. Humpbacks are friendly creatures and are popular with whale watchers. Sadly, humpback whales are endangered but numbers have been growing in recent years and there are now 80,000 humpbacks alive today.

Fun Facts

- Another name of humpback whales is 'giant wings'.
- Humpbacks live for about 50 years although they have been known to live to almost 100!
- Humpback whales are air-breathing mammals and can hold their breath for up to 45 minutes!



Appearance

Humpback whales are strange creatures. They have a large, knobby head, a black body and long fins. In fact, they have the longest fins of all marine mammals. Female humpbacks are larger than males and can weigh up to 36,000kg, which is almost the same weight as six elephants!

Life Cycle

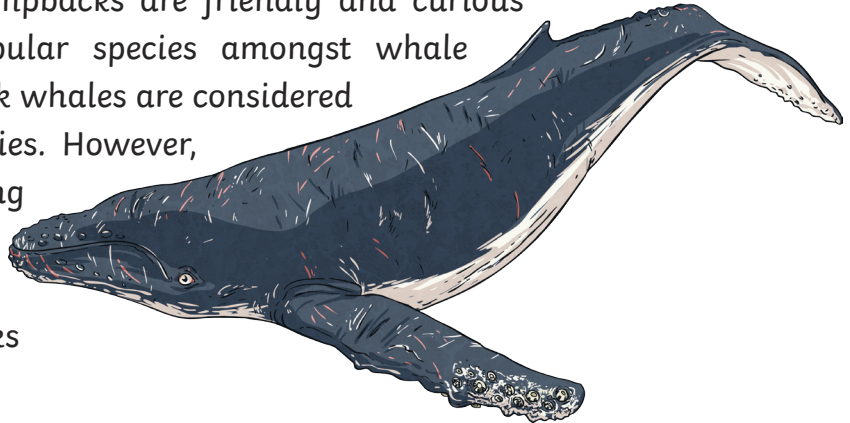
Babies grow inside their mothers for 12 months and when the calves are born, they are about 6 metres in length. Humpback whales tend to live alone or in small groups called pods. Mothers and their calves stay together for up to one year. Humpback whales are found in oceans around the world. They feed in colder waters and then travel to warmer seas in the winter so that they can breed and give birth. They eat mostly small fish and they feed by swallowing large mouthfuls of water.

Behaviour

Humpbacks are famous for their playful behaviour. One of the most wonderful sights is when a humpback leaps out of the water and splashes down with its fins and tail. Male humpbacks sing songs that last for up to 20 minutes. Scientists are not sure why they sing but one idea is that they do it to attract female whales. Humpbacks have been seen playing with and protecting other kinds of sea creatures such as dolphins and even humans!

Humpback Whales

Humpback whales are enormous and adults can grow to lengths of up to 19 metres. They are famous for their magical songs which can be heard from over 20 miles away. Humpbacks are friendly and curious creatures and are a popular species amongst whale watchers. Sadly, humpback whales are considered to be an endangered species. However, numbers have been growing in recent years and it is thought that there are now 80,000 humpbacks alive today!



Appearance

Humpback whales have a distinctive appearance. They have a large, knobby head, a black body and long fins. In fact, they have the longest fins of all marine mammals. Female humpbacks are larger than males and can weigh up to 36,000kg (six times as heavy as some elephants!)

Life Cycle

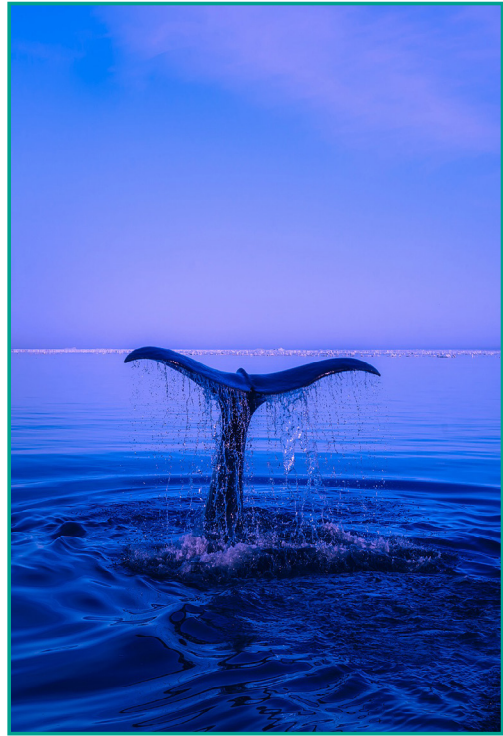
Babies grow inside their mothers for just under 12 months and when calves are born, they measure about 6 metres in length. Humpback whales tend to live alone or in small groups (pods). However, mothers and their calves stay together for up to one year. Humpback whales are found in oceans around the world. They tend to feed in colder waters and then migrate to warmer seas in the winter in order to breed and give birth. Their diet consists mostly of krill (small crustaceans) and small fish and they feed by swallowing large mouthfuls of water which contain the fish.

Fun Facts

- The scientific name for humpback whales is 'megaptera noveangliae' which means 'giant wings'.
- Humpbacks live for about 50 years although they have been known to live to almost 100!
- Humpback whales are air-breathing mammals and can hold their breath for up to 45 minutes!

Behaviour

Humpbacks are famous for their playful behaviour and one of the most awe-inspiring sights is that of a humpback whale leaping out of the water and splashing down with its fins and tail (this is known as breaching). Male humpbacks sing songs that last for up to 20 minutes and are different depending on what ocean they are in. Scientists are not entirely sure why they sing but one thought is that they do it to attract female whales. Humpbacks have been observed interacting with other species and they have even been seen protecting other sea creatures from predators such as sharks and killer whales.



Humpback Whales

Humpback whales are enormous and adults can grow to lengths of up to 19 metres. They are famous for their haunting, magical songs which can be heard from over 20 miles away. Despite their large size, humpbacks are friendly and inquisitive and are a popular species for whale watchers to observe. Sadly, due to an increase in the whaling industry during the 20th century, humpback whales are still considered to be an endangered species. However, numbers have been growing in recent years and it is thought that there are currently 80,000 humpbacks alive today!

Appearance

Humpback whales have a distinctive and unique appearance. They have a large, knobby head, a black **dorsal** and long **pectoral fins**. In fact, they have the longest fins of all marine mammals and their scientific name is 'megaptera noveangliae' meaning 'giant wings'. As is the case with most whales, female humpbacks are larger than males and can weigh up to 36,000kg; this is six times as heavy as some elephants!



Life Cycle

The **gestation** period of humpbacks is just under 12 months and when calves are born, they measure approximately 6 metres in length. Humpback whales tend to live alone or in small groups (pods) with the exception of mothers and their calves who stay together for up to one year. Humpbacks live for approximately 50 years although they have been known to live to almost double that age. Humpback whales are found in oceans around the world. They tend to feed in colder, polar waters and then migrate to warmer, tropical seas in the winter in order to breed and give birth. Their diet consists mostly of krill (small crustaceans) and small fish and they feed by swallowing large mouthfuls of water which contain their prey.

Behaviour

Humpbacks are famous for their acrobatic and playful behaviour and one of the most awe-inspiring sights is that of a humpback whale **breaching**. Male humpbacks sing songs that last for up to 20 minutes and differ depending on what ocean they are in. Scientists are not entirely sure why they sing but one theory is that they do it to attract female whales. Humpbacks have been observed interacting with other species and they have even been seen protecting other **cetacea** from predators such as sharks and killer whales.

Glossary

Dorsal: The upper side of an animal or mammal.

Pectoral fins: Fins on the side of a fish/whale used to control movement and speed.

Gestation: The period during which a baby grows inside its mother.

Breaching: When a whale jumps out of the water and splashes its fin and tail back down on the surface.

Cetacea: A group of aquatic mammals including whales, dolphins and porpoises.

