



ANIMALS OF THE WORLD

Blue Whales and Other Baleen Whales

What do blue whales eat to get so big? Why are blue whales called gulpers? How do scientists study whales? Read to *Blue Whales and Other Baleen Whales* find out!

What did you learn?

QUESTIONS

- The largest whale is the ...
 - Gray whale
 - Blue whale
 - Beluga whale
 - Humpback whale
- A blue whale can reach ...
 - 80 feet
 - 90 feet
 - 100 feet
 - 110 feet
- Baleen whales are ...
 - Blue
 - Green
 - White
 - Gray
- The whale that migrates off the West Coast of the United States is the ...
 - Humpback whale
 - Gray whale
 - Blue whale
 - Bowhead whale
- What type of whale is this?
- What type of whale is this?

TRUE OR FALSE?

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ 1. A baleen whale has two blowholes on the top of its head. | _____ 4. Blue whales are very social animals. |
| _____ 2. Blue whales eat krill. | _____ 5. Male humpback whales sing during the breeding season. |
| _____ 3. Blue whales have lots of natural predators. | _____ 6. Fin whales are one of the fastest swimmers. |

ANSWERS

- 1. b. Blue whale.** According to section "What Is a Whale?" on page 6, we know that "The blue whale you see here is the largest of all." So, the correct answer is B.
- 2. c. 100 feet.** According to section "Just How Big Are Blue Whales Anyway?" on page 14, we know that "A blue whale can reach 100 feet (30 meters) in length and may tip the scales at 300,000 pounds (136,000 kilograms)." So, the correct answer is C.
- 3. d. Gray.** According to section "What Colors Are Baleen Whales?" on page 44, we know that "Most whales are different shades of gray. Typically, a baleen whale has a dark gray back and a lighter gray underside." So, the correct answer is D.
- 4. b. Gray whale.** According to section "Which Whale Migrates Off the West Coast of the United States?" on page 54, we know that "Gray whales migrate between the Bering Sea off Alaska and the shallow bays of Baja California, Mexico." So, the correct answer is B.
- 5.** According to page 7, this photo shows a blue whale.
- 6.** According to page 51, this photo shows a humpback whale.

TRUE OR FALSE? ANSWERS

- 1. True.** According to section "How Can You Tell It Is a Baleen Whale?" on page 10, we know that "A baleen whale has two blowholes on the top of its head." So, the correct answer is True.
- 2. True.** According to section "What Do Blue Whales Eat to Get So Big?" on page 18, we know that "Blue whales that spend the summer months in cold polar waters eat a whole lot of one thing — krill." So, the correct answer is True.
- 3. False.** According to section "Do Blue Whales Have Enemies?" on page 26, we know that "An animal as large as a blue whale has few natural enemies. Only diseased or young blue whales are at risk of being attacked by sharks or killer whales." So, the correct answer is False.
- 4. False.** According to section "Are Blue Whales and Other Baleens Social Animals?" on page 32, we know that "After a blue whale calf separates from its mother, a blue whale will spend most of its time alone. Blue whales are rarely seen in large groups that are common to dolphins, killer whales, and other toothed whales." So, the correct answer is False.
- 5. True.** According to section "Which Whale Serenades Its Mate?" on page 48, we know that "Males sing during the breeding season." So, the correct answer is True.
- 6. True.** According to section "Which Whale Moves the Fastest?" on page 56, we know that "Fin whales are known for being excellent swimmers. . . Over short distances, fin whales reach speeds of 20 miles (32 kilometers) per hour." So, the correct answer is True.