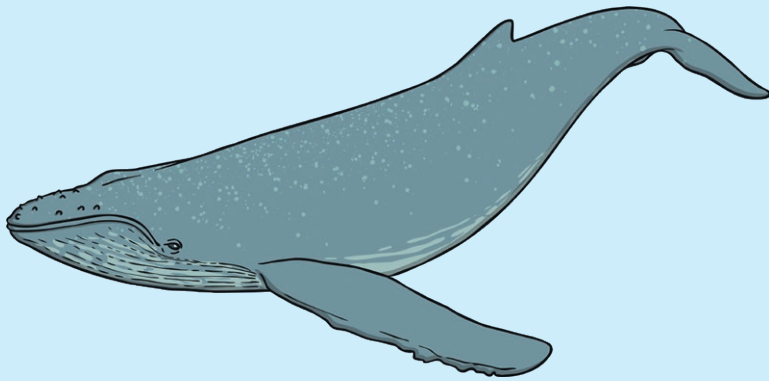


Blue Whale Fact Sheet

The blue whale is the largest animal ever known to live on earth. They can swim in small groups but usually live alone or in pairs.



Age

80-90 years old

Size

Up to 30 metres long

Weight

Up to 200 tonnes

Blue Whale Facts

Blue whales are mammals, which means they give birth to live young. Their babies are known as calves.

Blue whales are carnivores and eat tiny shrimp-like animals called krill. They eat about four tonnes of krill a day.

The tongue of a blue whale weighs as much as an elephant and its heart is the same size as a car!

They usually swim at about 5mph but when they are threatened they can reach a speed of 20mph.

Blue whales swim in polar seas in the summer and move nearer the equator during the winter.

Blue whales make noises which are louder than a jet engine. It is thought that they can hear each other from up to 1000 miles away!

Blue Whales and Predators

Blue whales have been hunted for many years and are now an endangered species. They are now on the protected list of animals. They can be attacked by sharks and killer whales. Sometimes, blue whales collide with large ships, which can lead to injuries or even death!