

Lesson Summary

While still recovering from worldwide commercial whaling, whales are now facing several other threatening issues.



Activities

These activities are designed to enhance and expand on the key learnings from the Whales lesson. They can be used as part of the lesson or assigned for research or projects.

English

LEARNING SKILLS – Creative thinking, questioning, research, communicate, critical thinking, empathy, explanation, teamwork and global citizenship.

Activity 1

Write a short story about your life as a whale migrating each winter to warmer waters. Talk about what you see and do on your voyage, about your family and how you communicate. Discuss some of the threats you encounter when migrating.

Activity 2

“Intelligence is the ability of a species to live in harmony with its environment.” Paul Watson

- What does this quote mean to you?
- Write the quote in your own words?
- Analyse the meaning and discuss with the class or in small groups.

Geography

LEARNING SKILLS – Understanding, questioning, research, communicate, critical thinking, analyse and explanation.

Activity 1

Research what ‘upwelling’ is and how it impacts the ocean. Write a report including the following:

- A definition of upwelling in your own words.
- Explain how whales help upwelling.
- Analyse how upwelling impacts the climate.

Activity 2

Research where whale species live or the location of whale nurseries around the world. Create a presentation with maps and information on these areas, which species can be found there and why whales are attracted to these areas.

History

LEARNING SKILLS – Understanding, questioning, research, communicate, critical thinking and explanation.

Activity 1

Bowhead whales are believed to live up to 200 years. During the last 200 years there have been many events / activities impacting on the ocean and whales.

Identify some of the events / activities that have occurred over the last 200 years.

Create a timeline showing when they occurred / started, what their impacts were and how long their impacts have been felt by the ocean and whales.

Science

LEARNING SKILLS – Understanding, questioning, research, analyse, communicate, critical thinking and explanation.

Activity 1

Research what nutrients are found in whale faeces and how these help the growth of phytoplankton. Identify how whales obtain these nutrients?

Activity 2

Impacts of pollution and chemicals on apex species like whales.

Investigate, as apex species, what are the impacts of ocean pollution on whales. Pollution could be any type - plastics, oil, chemicals etc. Identify what you will be focusing your investigation on.

Write a report detailing your findings, including short and long term impacts on whales and the consequences for the ocean ecosystem.

Activity 3

Research how scientists determine the age of a dead whale, or how scientists check the health of a whale, what methods and tools are used and how technology can help.

Social Science

LEARNING SKILLS - Understanding, questioning, research, communicate, critical thinking, empathy, explanation, advocate and global citizenship.

Activity 1

Write a news article raising awareness about the numerous manmade impacts on whales, encouraging the reader to take action.

Activity 2

Advocate for changes to help reduce pollution in the ocean to protect whales, by creating an awareness campaign:

- Select a type of pollution (oil, plastics, fishing gear, chemicals).
- Research the source, the issue, its impacts and who it is impacting.
- Select a call to action on why people should care and what they can do.
- Create your campaign – choose your audience and how you will convey your message.

Arts / Media

LEARNING SKILLS – Creative thinking, research, communicate, critical thinking, empathy, explanation, advocate and global citizenship.

Activity 1

Create an artwork inspired by your favourite whale species – drawing, painting, or sculpture,

Activity 2

Create a poster, infographic or short video explaining one of the manmade impacts on whales and asking the public to take action.

YOUR FEEDBACK

We value your feedback and would be pleased to hear your thoughts about this lesson and activities. Any comments, suggestions or requests for further information can be sent to education@seashepherdglobal.org