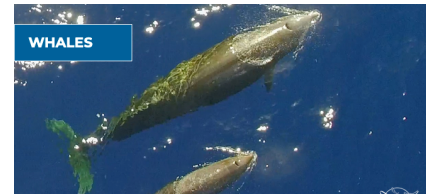


Lesson Summary

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 as research or projects.

English

LEARNING SKILLS – Creative thinking, communicate, critical thinking, empathy, reasoning, advocate, reflect and explanation.

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.

Or

Imagine you are a new born whale calf. Write a story about your life, how you learn to swim, what you see in the ocean and who you meet for the first time.

Activity 2

For each of the following words:

- Look up the dictionary definition of the word.
- Write the meaning of the word in your own words.
- Can you find other words with the same meaning?
- Write a sentence using the word.

Commercial (as in commercial fishing)

Migrate

Pollution

Geography

LEARNING SKILLS – Research, investigate, analyse, interpretation, communicate, critical thinking and explanation.

Activity 1

Research what 'upwelling' is and why it is so important for a healthy ocean. Write a report including the following:

- A definition of upwelling in your own words.
- Explain how whales help upwelling.
- How does upwelling impact 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 and what makes them attract whales.

History

LEARNING SKILLS – Research, interpretation, communicate, reasoning, explanation and critical thinking.

Activity 1

Bowhead whales are believed to live to 200 years. During the last 200 years there have been many events / activities that have had a great impact on the ocean and whales. Identify some of the events / activities that have developed 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 – Investigate, research, analyse, creative thinking, communicate, critical thinking and explanation.

Activity 1

Research the different types of activities and sounds whales make. What is the purpose of the activity or sound, such as breaching and tail slapping?

Activity 2 – Echolocation

Whales and dolphins use echolocation to hunt for food and for navigation.

This exercise demonstrates how noise bounces off objects and how whales and dolphins can locate them.

1. Select one student, or each student takes a turn, who will be blindfolded. They will be the whale.
2. The blindfolded student is positioned in the centre of the room.
3. Other students are then positioned at varying distances away from the whale – minimum of 1 metre. These students will be the fish/octopus/krill.
4. The whale will make a noise – they can clap or make a whale noise.
5. The surrounding students, in front of the whale, will then reply to the noise. It is important they understand they all communicate with the same volume when responding to the whale. This noise represents the echo that the whale would hear.
6. The whale then guesses the direction and how far away the fish/octopus/krill are. They can either tell you or move toward the sound. If they guess correctly the marine animal is removed from the ocean.
7. The whale can be given a set number of turns 3 - 5, to see how many they get correct.
8. For larger classes students can be split into groups of 5 - 10, making it easier for everyone to have a turn.

Social Science

LEARNING SKILLS – Creative thinking, communicate, critical thinking, empathy, reasoning, advocate, reflect, explanation 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

Help advocate for changes to help reduce pollution in the ocean to protect whales:

- Select a type of pollution (oil, plastics, fishing gear, chemicals).
- Detail the source, the issue, its impacts and who impacting.
- Create a call to action on why people should care and what they can do.
- Decide on how you will share your message and create your materials. (This could be anything - letters to government, newspaper articles, a brochure to handout, video or posters.)

Arts / Media

LEARNING SKILLS – Creative thinking, communicate, critical thinking, empathy, reasoning, advocate and explanation.

Activity 1

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

Activity 2

Create a poster, infographic or short video explaining the manmade impacts on whales.

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