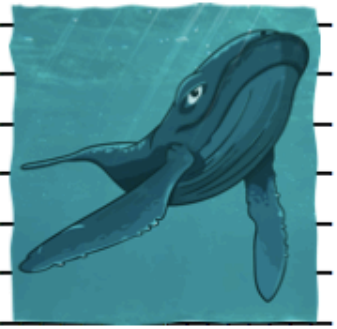
The Whale's Tale



BLUE WHALE FACTS

Read the facts then put the information into a blue whale factfile on the next page.

Blue whales are the largest mammals to have ever lived. They can grow to over **30m** long and weigh more than **130,000kg**. Their tongues can weigh as much as an elephant and the average blue whale's heart weighs the same as a car.

Fascinating Fact!
Though we can't hear them, blue whales are one of the loudest animals on the planet!

Blue whale calves (babies) measure around **8m** long and weigh **3,000kg** when they are born. The calf feeds in the water, drinking more than 600 litres of its mother's milk each day and growing by about 90kg every day for the first year of its life.

Despite their size, blue whales eat creatures (krill) which are a bit like tiny shrimp. Because of their huge size, the average blue whale eats up to 40 million krill each day! They mainly catch their food by diving, and descend to depths of approximately 500 m. Though they are usually found in deep water when hunting, the blue whale must come to the surface of the sea to breathe. When it surfaces, it exhales air out of a blowhole in a cloud of vapour which rises out of the water for up to 9m!

Whilst being the heaviest creature in the sea, blue whales are also incredibly graceful swimmers and swim at speeds of over 8kmph. They can reach speeds of over 32kmph!