

# BLUE WHALE FACTS

Read the facts then answer the questions on the next page.



## Fascinating Fact!

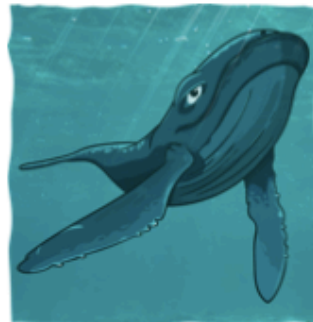
Though we can't hear them, blue whales are one of the loudest animals on the planet!

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.

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!



# BLUE WHALE QUESTIONS

Read each question and decide whether it is true or false

Fact	True	False
Blue whales can weigh more than 130,000kg.		
Blue whale calves grow 600kg per day.		
A blowhole is used to inhale air.		
The average blue whale eats 400 million krill per day.		
We can easily hear blue whales.		

Which word means the same as *go down to*?

Which word means the opposite of *clumsy*?

Which word means the same as *breathes out*?

Which word means the opposite of *shallow*?

Which fact shocked you the most? Why?

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