

# The Big Blue Whale

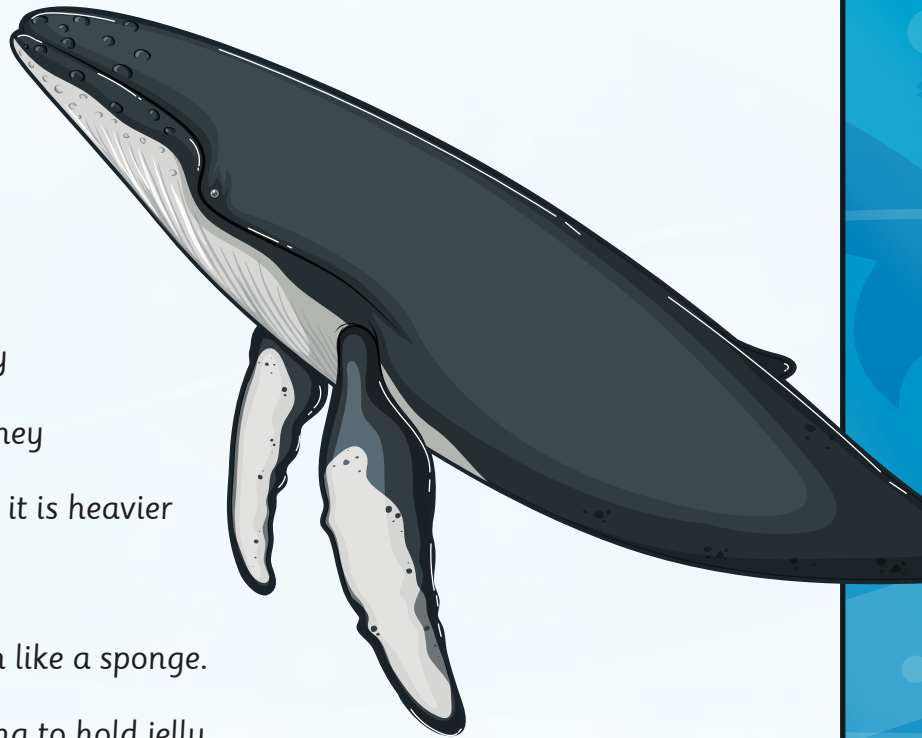
Non-chronological report

Y2

Whales are a kind of mammal that live in the ocean. People used to hunt whales and fewer than 10,000 remain. Luckily, hunting whales is now banned so their numbers are growing very slowly. If you manage to see one in the wild, you are very lucky!

## What do they look like?

Blue whales are the biggest animal that has ever lived on our planet. They are bigger than elephants and even dinosaurs! They can grow up to 100 feet long and they weigh 150 tons. Did you know that it is heavier than 25 elephants? The blue whale has skin that is springy and smooth like a sponge. It feels slippery like if you were trying to hold jelly. The blue whale has dark eyes that look like deep pits and tiny holes for ears. They can't have ears that stick out because they would get in the way as they were swimming.



## How does it live in the ocean?

Blue whales are mammals so they breathe air and not water. In order to live under water, they have huge blowholes on their heads and they come to the surface to breathe in the air. When they breathe out, they send massive puffs of mist shooting into the air like rockets. If you get close enough, you can smell its fishy, stale odour!



Blue Whales travel great distances to stay alive. In winter, they swim away from the cold storms and towards the equator where the seas are warmer. This is where the females have their babies.

### What do they eat?

Blue whales are giants so they need to eat a lot. Surprisingly, their food is tiny! Its food is called krill and they are little, pale pink creatures the size of a small finger. They live in swarms so massive that sometimes the sea looks pink. The blue whale has baleen plates which are lots and lots of bristles that hang down from its top jaw and help it to eat.

