

# Whales







Whales are the biggest animals on the planet, even bigger than elephants!



The blue whale is the largest animal in the world. It's about 94 feet long. That's as long as a basketball court!



Whales live  
in all the  
oceans on  
the planet.

They can  
live in both  
warm and  
cold water.



Whales are mammals just like cows or tigers or people.

Whales give birth to live babies and feed their babies milk.



Different whales eat different things.  
Sperm whales eat giant squid and fish.  
Blue whales eat little shrimplike things  
called krill.



Whales can swim underwater for a long time but they must come up to the top to breathe air. They have blowholes on the top of their heads to help them breathe.





Whales sing songs to talk to one another, but they don't use their mouths. They only make sounds with their blowholes.



Whales often jump out of the water. No one knows why they do this, but some people think it is a way of talking to each other.



Whales don't have fins like fish do. They have flippers and a strong tail that help them swim long distances.



When winter comes, whales travel to where the water is warmer. They swim in big groups and can travel up to 3,000 miles.



Don't be fooled by the killer whale! The name might trick you to think it's a whale, but killer whales are a kind of dolphin.



It's an amazing thing to see a whale. But I don't think I'd want to get this close!

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## BOOK LEVELS

**Guided Reading: G**  
**Grade Level: 1.7**

Set 3 – End of 1st Grade

**Word Count: 266**  
**Reading Recovery: 11**

Our aim with this series of books is to weave together two significant goals in the design of early reading materials—that the books are both instructional and engaging. Books designed to develop reading skills often end up feeling like work to read, while books designed to be interesting are often too difficult for beginning readers.

These books for beginning readers support phonics-based classroom instruction by including a high concentration of phonetically regular words, as well as the most commonly used sight words. However, the books are written using pictures and stories that make sense and promote both language and conceptual development. The books encourage questions, conversations and thoughtful engagement, aiming towards the new common core standards. Our intent is to produce books that kids want to read, think about, talk about and read again.

Mustard Seed Books - 2011

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