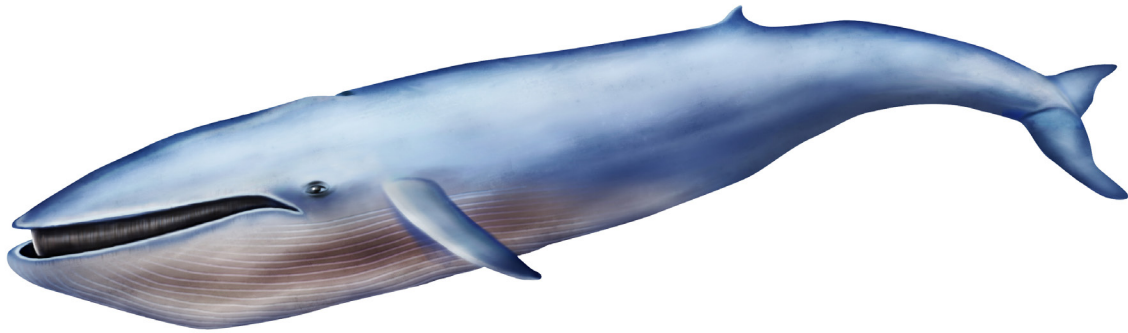


Blue Whales

The Biggest Animals on Earth



The blue whale is the largest animal on earth. It is huge!

Blue whales look blue underwater. But when they come to the surface, blue whales look grayish blue.

A blue whale is as long as a football field! It weighs as much as 75 cars! A blue whale's tongue is as big as an elephant. Wow!

Blue whales are not only big, they are loud! Blue whales make clicking noises. They moan

and groan. They can hear each other up to 1,000 miles away!

Blue whales live eighty to ninety years.

Blue whales can swim long distances. They often spend the summers feeding in the Antarctic. Then they swim to the equator. Often blue whales swim alone. But sometimes they swim in pairs.

Blue whales eat tiny sea animals. First the blue whale takes a big gulp of water. As it takes in water, it stretches the sides of its mouth, filling up like a balloon. The blue whale pushes the water through a filter in its mouth called a baleen. The water flows out of its mouth. Small



Grooves that allow the blue whale's mouth to expand to hold more water

animals called krill get stuck in the whale's mouth and the whale swallows them.

A blue whale can eat up to 7,900 pounds of krill in one day. That is more than the weight of two cars!