

1. → Reading**Some facts about whales**

Everybody knows that whales spend their whole lives in the water and they are enormous¹ animals. A very big blue whale can be 35 metres long and it can be as heavy as 130 tonnes². As the whales are so big, they need huge amounts³ of food, usually plankton⁴. Whales are experts at finding food under the water, they are even able to find plankton which scientists with expensive equipment are not able to find. It is hard to believe, but blue whales feed only plankton and small fish. How do they do this? These whales have strainers⁵ in their mouths (called baleen⁶). After getting a mouthful of water and plankton, the baleen filters out⁷ the water and keeps the plankton inside the whale's mouth. Such⁸ a mouthful can be over 2 tonnes of water for a blue whale.

It is hard to imagine that a blue whale baby weighs⁹ 6.5 tonnes when it is born and is about 7 metres long. After the first week it weighs twice as much, and at 7 months a blue whale is 17 metres long and weighs 22 tonnes. People have often wondered how intelligent whales are and there are many stories about whales that have saved people. However¹⁰, today the total number of whales has gone down greatly and whales have to be protected, especially from pollution.

a) Tick the right sentences.

- Whales are born and die in the water.
- Scientists are experts at finding plankton underwater.
- A blue whale weighs twice as much after seven months than when it is born.
- There are stories about whales that have saved people.
- A blue whale eats 2 tonnes of plankton in one mouthful.
- Blue whales have special filters to filter out the water and keep the plankton.
- Whales are very intelligent.
- Whales die from pollution.
- At seven months a blue whale weighs 130 tonnes and is 30 metres long.
- There are not many whales left.

b) Now correct the wrong sentences.**c) Why do you think this is so...?**

1. Why is it hard to believe that whales only feed on plankton and small fish?
2. Why are whales such experts at finding food?
3. Why do whales have to be protected from people?

d) NOW YOU: Your opinion

Write a short text (about 100 words) about whales. Do you like whales? Do they impress (beeindrucken) you? Do you know things about them that are not in the text?

e) NOW YOU: An e-mail to Greenpeace

You are against it. Find arguments that you could tell Greenpeace and write an e-mail (about 100 words) to them in which you tell them your opinion.

¹ enormous = very big

² tonne = 1000 kilos

³ amount = Menge

⁴ plankton = Plankton

⁵ strainer = Sieb, Filter

⁶ baleen = Barte, Fischbein

⁷ (to) filter out = herausfiltern

⁸ such = solch

⁹ (to) weigh = wiegen

¹⁰ however = jedoch, aber

Aufgabe 1

a) Tick the right sentences.

- Whales are born and die in the water. ✓
- Scientists are experts at finding plankton underwater.
- A blue whale weights twice as much after seven months than when it is born.
- There are stories about whales that have saved people. ✓ ✓
- A blue whale eats 2 tonnes of plankton in one mouthful. ✓
- Blue whales have special filters to filter out the water and keep the plankton. ✓
- Whales are very intelligent. ✓
- Whales die from pollution. ✓
- At seven months a blue whale weighs 130 tonnes and is 30 metres long.
- There are not many whales left. ✓

Aufgabe 2

Whales are experts at finding plankton underwater.

At seven months a blue whale weighs 22 tonnes and is 17 metres long.

Aufgabe 3

1. I think it is hard to believe that whales only feed on plankton and small fish, because they are so huge that my brain tells me they have to eat more.
2. Whales are such experts at finding food, because they would starve if they were not.
3. Whales have to be protected from people, because many whales die (for example because of pollution).

Aufgabe 4

Whales are the biggest mammals in the whole world. The blue whale is the largest mammal on earth. An interesting fact is that the female blue whale becomes even bigger than the male one, but both are around 30 meters long.

Whales are a symbol for peace although they are often hunted. I think that it is illegal to hunt them – especially just for fun. Whales impress me, because it looks great when they jump out of the water into the air. In my opinion, whales are really wonderful animals, but they are often hunted or treated badly – just think of “Free Willy”.

Aufgabe 5

Hello Greenpeace,

I am writing this letter because I need to tell you my opinion about the way you work. I do not think that it is well thought how you react to certain points. In my opinion you are too extreme and should overthink your actions more.

Because of your actions, people get into danger where there would not have been any danger.

I hope you change your ways of thinking.

Sincerely,

xxx