

Teacher Resource

Episode 3 21st February 2016

Beached Whales



FOCUS QUESTIONS

- 1. Briefly summarise the BTN Beached Whales story.
- 2. A whale is a
 - a. Fish
 - b. Mammal
 - c. Amphibian
- 3. Where did hundreds of pilot whales beach themselves recently?
- 4. How did people try to help them?
- 5. A group of whales is called a
 - a. Flock
 - b. Litter
 - c. Pod
- 6. Whales are known for their amazing sense of direction. Give an example of this.
- 7. How can a ship's sonar affect a whale's sense of direction?
- 8. What can happen when whales get sick or injured?
- 9. What other theories do scientists have for whales becoming stranded?
- 10. What did you learn watching this story?



ACTIVITY

After watching the BTN *Beached Whales* story, students respond to the following questions:

- What did you SEE in this video?
- What do you THINK about what you saw in this video?
- What does this video make your WONDER?
- What did you LEARN from this story?
- How did this story make you FEEL?



Students will develop a deeper understanding of why whales beach themselves and research a species of whale in depth.



Science - Year 5

Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment (ACSSU043)

Science - Year 6

The growth and survival of living things are affected by the physical conditions of their environment (ACSSU094)

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions(ACSHE100)

Science - Year 7

Science and technology contribute to finding solutions to a range of contemporary issues; these solutions may impact on other areas of society and involve ethical considerations (ACSHE120)

Discuss the BTN Beached Whales story as a class. What questions were raised in the discussion (what are the gaps in their knowledge)? The KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.



What do I <u>k</u> now?	What do I <u>w</u> ant to know?	What have I <u>l</u> earnt?	<u>H</u> ow will I find out?

Students will develop their own question/s for inquiry, collecting and recording information from a wide variety of sources.

Use the following questions to help guide the discussion:

- What are the physical features of whales?
- What do whales eat?
- What are the different species of whales?
- · Which species are found in Australian waters?
- What are the differences between whales and dolphins?
- What are some unique features of whales?
- · Why do whales migrate?
- How do whales communicate?



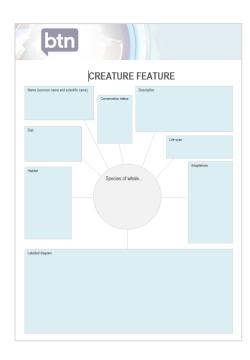
Creature Feature

Cetacean is the scientific name which refers to whales, dolphins and porpoises. Students will explore in depth a species of whale and create a Creature Feature on their chosen species. Species include:

- o Humpback whale
- o Southern Right whale
- o Blue whale
- Minke whale
- Killer whale

They will include a description of the species, habitat, adaptations and conservation status. They will also draw a labelled diagram of the whale.

Encourage students to use a range of sources to find their information. Students will use the <u>Creature Feature worksheet</u> to organise and present their information.





ACTIVITY

Why do whales beach themselves?

Students will imagine they are a marine scientist and prepare a presentation to a group explaining the theories of why whales beach themselves. They will need to include the following in their presentation:

- O What is a beached whale?
- O Why do whales beach themselves?



- O What is done to assist beached whales?
- o Give an example of a beaching in Australian waters.

Encourage students to present the information in a creative way.



How do whales communicate?

Whale songs are one of the most sophisticated communication systems in the animal kingdom. Watch this Ted Ed video and answer the following questions:

- Which species of whale are known to sing?
- o How long can whales sing for?
- o Why do they sing?
- What impact can noise pollution have on the whales?
- Name three interesting facts you learnt watching the video.





Create a Quiz

Use <u>Kahoot!</u> to test students' knowledge about whales. Quizzes can be created to recap learning or test personal knowledge. There is also the option to connect with classrooms around the world and play kahoot in real time.





USEFUL WEBSITES

CBBC News – Why do whales beach themselves? http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/38931310

ABC News – Whales beached in New Zealand hours after volunteers re-float survivors http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-02-11/hundreds-more-whales-beached-in-new-zealand/8262646

BTN Quiz - Which Whale is Which?

http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/extracontent/2013/whaling/whales.pdf

Ted Ed video – Why do whales sing?

http://ed.ted.com/lessons/how-do-whales-sing-stephanie-sardelis

