

CLASSROOM BLUE WHALE FACT FILE

Scientific name	blaeoptera musculus
Also known as	Sulphur Bottom Whale
Classification	Blue Whales belong to a group of marine animals known as cetaceans. Like all mammals in this suborder, Blue Whales are warm-blooded, breathe air and suckle their young.
Length	up to 30 metres
Weight	up to 200 tons
Heart Weight	approximately 450 kilograms
Average lifespan	80-90 years
Appearance	greyish-blue colour, light spots - some have a yellowish underside
Type	Blue Whales are baleen whales - rather than having teeth, these whales are characterized by having plates for filtering food from water.
Closest cousins	fin whale, minke whale and the sei whale
Communication	extremely loud rhythmic pulses and deep moans emitted in a very low frequency inaudible to humans
Diet	each day a single adult carnivorous blue whale consumes about four tons of krill tiny shrimp-like organisms
Social or solitary	Blue Whales sometimes congregate in groups, but tend to swim the oceans alone or in pairs
Group name	pod
Distribution	Blue Whales can be found alone or in groups in every ocean on the planet
Migration	migratory patterns remain largely a mystery. Some pods migrate very little, while others make annual trans-oceanic journeys from polar waters to equatorial waters.
Predators	few - mostly human by way of human activity and occasional attacks from killer whales