

# Reading

Activity 1: The extract about Orca Whales and answer the questions below

Activity 2: Read a text or part of a text of your choice and complete one of the activities below. Try to choose something different to what you have done before.

Choose one of these to complete about a text you have read

<p><u>COMIC STRIP</u></p> <p>Choose the five most important events that happened in your book and turn them into a comic strip.</p>	<p><u>SUM UP</u></p> <p>Summarise the book in 100 words or less. Remember to include key information</p>	<p><u>KEY PLAYERS</u></p> <p>Rank the characters from most to least important and explain why.</p>
<p><u>MY FAVOURITE PART</u></p> <p>Write about your favourite part of your book and explain why you like it using evidence from the text</p>	<p><u>NEW COVER</u></p> <p>Design a new cover for the book. Include a picture, title, author and illustrator.</p>	<p><u>WRITE A LETTER</u></p> <p>Write a letter to one of the characters in your reading book. Include at least one question you want to ask them</p>
<p><u>POINT OF VIEW</u></p> <p>Retell part of the story from a different character's point of view.</p>	<p><u>QUIZ</u></p> <p>Make up at least five questions about your reading book. Make sure you know the answers! Test your friend.</p>	<p><u>SEQUEL</u></p> <p>Write 5 things that would happen if the book you've read has a sequel – Use evidence to support your ideas</p>
<p><u>MEETING</u></p> <p>If you could meet one character from the text, who would it be and why? Make sure you give enough detail.</p>	<p><u>REVIEW IT</u></p> <p>Create a book review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summarise the plot</li> <li>• Explain why you like it               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who would you recommend it to and why?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><u>VOCAB</u></p> <p>Are there any words in the book you don't understand? Can you find them in a dictionary and write them in a different sentence?</p>

# Killer Whales (*Orca*)

## Killer Whale Facts

The killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) is part of the (odontoceti) toothed whale suborder. While the killer whale carries the name whale it is actually considered a dolphin.

In fact it is the largest of the dolphin species and has even been known on rare occasion to attack other whales.

Killer whales are one of the most well-recognized sea mammals and are easily spotted by their strong black and white colouring. They are extremely intelligent, well-organized and follow highly complex social structures within their pods often consisting of large groups of family members and is considered one of the most stable social structures of any of the animal species.

Having no known predators the killer whale is known as an apex or alpha predator, which is able to hunt freely without fear of being attacked by another animal.

Other than the name killer whale these whales are also referred to as the orca and black-fish.

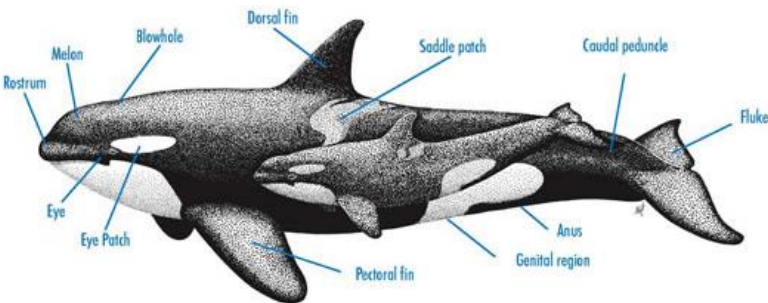


## Social Structure

The complexity of the social structure of killer whales can be compared to elephants and humans. Killer whales hunt in pods (also known as groups) of up to 40 whales. As many as four generations of family members can be seen traveling within the pods.

They are very protective of their young and will attack if feel threatened.

Individual killer whales will leave their pods only for short periods of time (a few hours) to forage and mate. Killer whales usually hunt in groups and use complex hunting methods to attack and capture their prey.



## Diet

Killer whales will feast on small aquatic lifeforms such as fish and squid and larger mammals like sea lions, seals and even other whales.

Depending on the region the whale lives in their diets can change dramatically.

Food intake can also vary significantly, eating anywhere from 2% to 10% of their body weight in food on a daily basis.

Calves (new-born whales) will tend to eat a high percentage of food compared to adult whales.

Some interesting animals and species found in the stomach of killer whales include:

- Birds
- Whales
- Reptiles
- Polar Bears
- Moose

## Physical Characteristics

Killer whales have black backs, white chests and sides, and white circles above and behind their eyes. Male killer whales usually grow to an average of 20 - 26 feet and weigh an average of 8,000 lbs - 12,000 lbs while the female grows to an average of 16 - 23 feet and weighs between 3,000 lbs – 6,000 lbs.

The largest recorded whale measured in at 32 feet and weighed over 10 tons.

Killer whales have a single blow-hole, pectoral flippers, flukes and a dorsal fin.

### Fast Facts

**Type:** Mammal

**Diet:** Carnivore

**Average life span in the wild:** 50 to 80 years

**Size:** 23 to 32 ft (7 to 9.7 m)

**Weight:** Up to 6 tons (5,443 kg)

**Group name:** Pod

**Size relative to a bus:**



### Questions:

1. Write 3 characteristics of an Orca's personality
2. Why do you think Orca whales have been given the name 'Killer' whales? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
3. Write one difference between a male and female Orca.
4. Why are subheadings important in an information text?