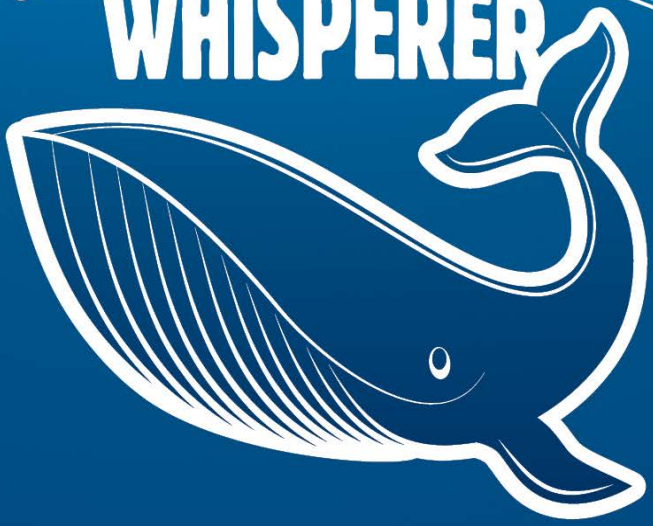
Junior WHALE WHISPERER



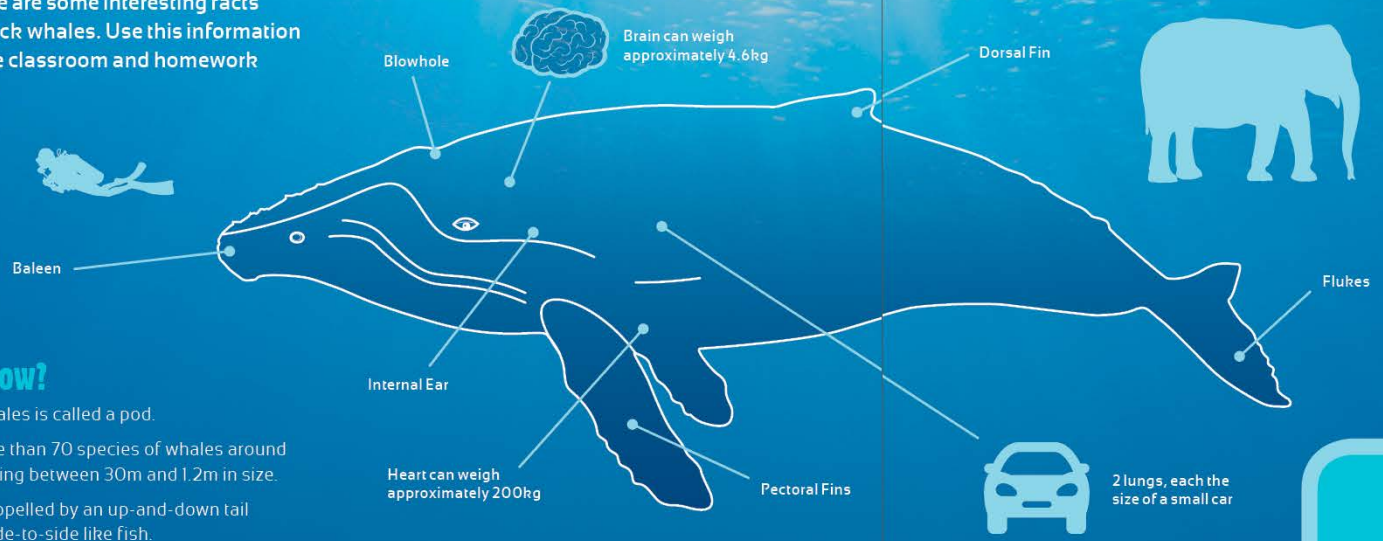
Humpback Whale Fast Facts

www.whalesherveybay.com.au

Program run by:

Fraser Coast
Queensland Where Nature Comes Alive

To help you become an accredited Junior Whale Whisperer, here are some interesting facts about humpback whales. Use this information to complete the classroom and homework activity sheet.



Did you know?

- A group of whales is called a pod.
- There are more than 70 species of whales around the world ranging between 30m and 1.2m in size.
- Whales are propelled by an up-and-down tail motion, not side-to-side like fish.
- Whales are more closely related to humans than fish, as they are air breathing warm-blooded mammals.
- They fit within the same category as dolphins a group called Cetaceans and possess the following adaptations for aquatic life: streamlined, smooth bodies with few hairs; no external ears; flipper-like forelimbs for manoeuvring; and a layer of insulating blubber.

Humpback whales

- The scientific name for humpback whales is 'Megaptera Novaeangliae' meaning great wings because of their huge wing-like flippers.
- The east Australian humpback population is increasing steadily at about 10 per cent each year and is estimated at around 17,000 in 2014.
- Humpback whales can hold their breath up to 40 minutes.

How big are they?

- Humpback whales are the fifth largest animal on this planet and weigh between 30 50 tonne.
- Each humpback whale is equivalent to 11 elephants or 600 humans.
- Adult female humpback whales grow up to 15m, slightly longer than adult male humpback whales.
- Humpback whale arteries are large enough for humans to crawl through!

Feeding

- Krill, plankton and small fish are the main sources of food for humpback whales.
- Humpback whales do not have teeth; instead they have baleen which filters food from water.
- In Antarctica where the food is plentiful, whales can eat up to two tonnes of krill a day! During migration they don't feed at all and live off their own body fat.

Breeding

- Humpback whales migrate to the warm tropical waters to mate and give birth as the Antarctic waters are too cold for newborn calves.
- At birth, calves are approximately 4 5m long and weigh more than one tonne (1,000kg).
- Mother whales feed their calves hundreds of litres of milk each day.
- Calves are nursed until they are one year old and approximately 8m long.
- Pods of mothers and calves are often escorted by an adult male during migration.
- On the trip south, mother humpbacks often stop, rest and play in Hervey Bay. They use their time in the calm waters of the bay to teach newborn calves survival skills for the deeper, colder waters of Antarctica.

SPY HOP:

A spy hop is when a humpback will rise almost straight out of the water so its eyes are just clear of the water surface, before slipping back under.

PECTORAL SLAP:

Humpbacks show their pectoral fins by lying on the water and slapping one or both fins.

BREACH:

A breach is when a humpback propels most of its body out of the water, and turns to crash spectacularly onto the water surface.

THE BLOW:

The blow is when the humpbacks exhale forcefully through two blowholes on the top of their head creating a cloud of vapour condensation and excess water collected around the blowhole.

TAIL SLAP:

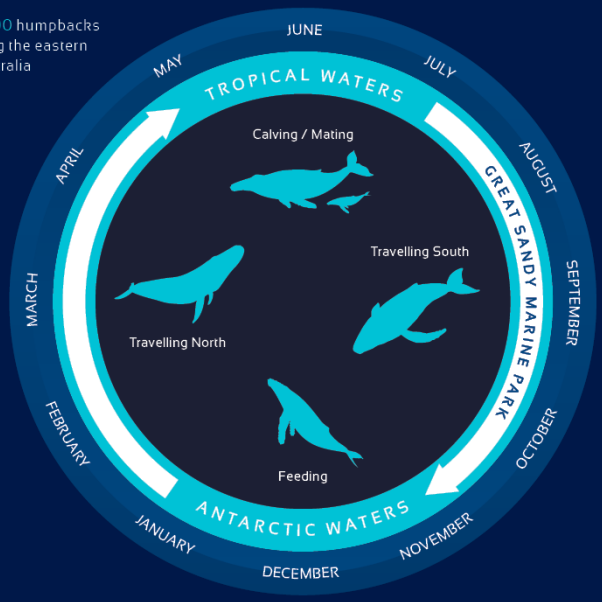
A tail slap is when the humpback is nearly submerged vertically, while it slaps its tail flukes on the surface of the water.

Migration

- Humpback whales migrate annually from polar feeding grounds (Antarctica) to tropical calving and mating areas (Tropical North Queensland).
- The east coast population migrates up to 10,000km (5,000km in each direction) every year between Antarctica and the Great Barrier Reef. It is the longest migration of all whales.
- Hervey Bay is the only genuine stop-over during the east coast migration with up to 7,000 whales choosing to stop and play in the bay's calm and safe waters.

The Great Sandy Marine Park

- The Great Sandy Marine Park is situated off the coast of Queensland and was created to manage and protect marine species, ecosystems and habitats.
- There is a whale management zone in the Hervey Bay area which protects migrating humpback whales from the start of July to the end of November each year.



Junior WHALE WHISPERER

Homework Activity Sheet

Section 1: Answer the following questions

1. What % increase in the whale population will we see this year?

2. What do humpback whales eat?

3. What is the name of the marine park in Hervey Bay?

4. How long do humpback whales nurse their calves?

5. What months during the year can you spot humpback whales travelling south through the Great Sandy Marine Park?

6. How heavy is a humpback whale's heart?

7. Humpback whales produce the third longest and most varied 'songs' in the animal world.
   ☐ True ☐ False (tick the correct answer)
8. Humpback whales have two lungs and each lung is the size of a small car.
   ☐ True ☐ False (tick the correct answer)
9. Humpback whales migrate 2,000km each year.
   ☐ True ☐ False (tick the correct answer)
10. Blubber reserves provide the bulk of sustenance for humpback whales during migration.
    ☐ True ☐ False (tick the correct answer)

Section 2: Whale word search

P Z F Z K J D N F U G A J O U N J
O J D B S V N W O M C Y E L O E Y
X Y J U H P J I H U J T T I K V A
T G Y I D S R C V W V R T A W N B
T R K O B U E L L N K A S U K A Y
H Q D H J I Y L Q G R B K L Q T E
T G L P O D S L A G E S R E B D V
Q A L X I I M P I H T L W K B X R
Q V I C E Z J M Y P W E W U R J E
Z B R L P O H Y P S L B M F E C H
R B K O S M J J W T E B Q Y A F O
Q U L G A L T S H U M P B A C K Z
Y D N M W T A C Q Z W Q N S H R P
V O M R O V R P Y P F D U K A J O
S A G K P V O H Y C J L X D L T Q
L H G V A K K Y F N I X N H B N H
G O E G V W Q Z S Z A T V P J K D

BREACH
HERVEYBAY
HUMPBACK
KRILL
MAMMAL
MIGRATION
PODS
SONGS
SPYHOP
TAILSLAP
WHALE

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Section 3: Fill in the blank cells by naming or describing each whale behaviour in the table below.

NAME OF BEHAVIOUR or MOVEMENT	IMAGE	DESCRIPTION OF BEHAVIOUR or MOVEMENT
Blow		Whales blow excess water 3 5m into the air as they rise to the surface to breathe. Adult humpbacks have two lungs, each the size of a small car and they exhale forcefully through two blowholes on top of their heads.
Spy Hop		
		While submerged nearly vertically, a humpback can slap its tail flukes on the surface of the water. Possibly a threat signal, tail slapping might continue for long periods of time.
		Humpbacks show their pectoral fins by seemingly lying on the water and slapping one or both fins. They can do this up to 30 times in just 5 minutes.
Breach		

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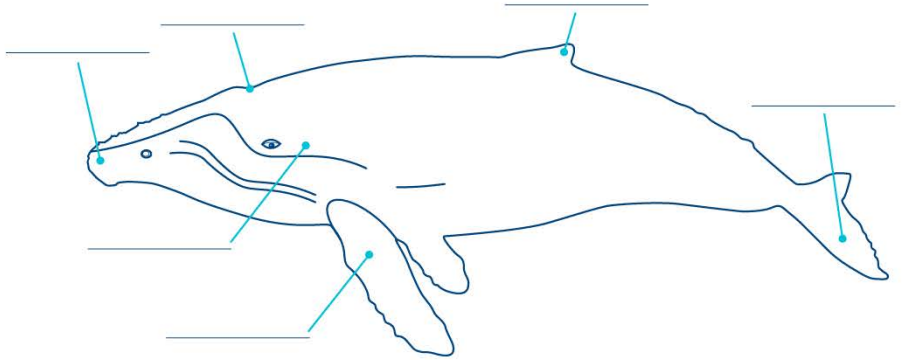
Classroom Activity Sheet

Section 4: Label Harvey the Humpback's body parts

Baleen Flukes Blowhole Internal Ear Dorsal fin Pectoral fins



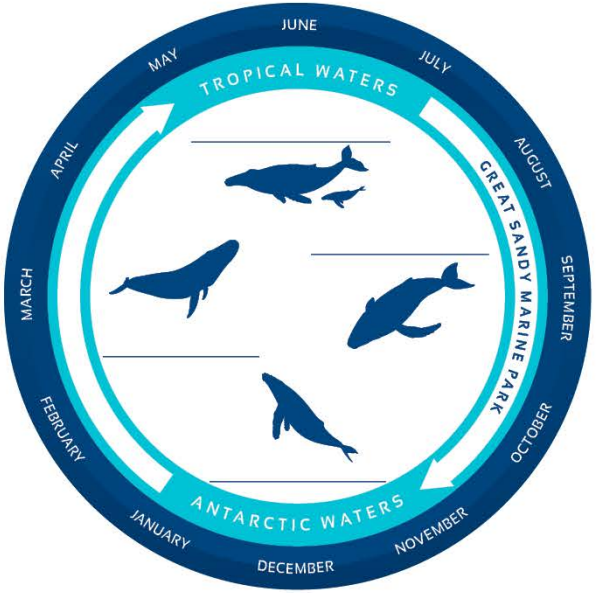
Section 5: Label the humpback whale migration timeline

Calving/mating

Travelling north

Travelling south

Feeding



Spirit OF HERVEY BAY

Fraser Coast
Queensland Where Nature Comes Alive

JUNIOR WHALE WHISPERER ART COMPETITION

Win a Whale Watching trip on Spirit Hervey Bay for your whole class!

Commences on Monday 30 July 2018 and ends at 5.00pm on Friday 31 August 2018.
Multiple entries may be submitted by each classroom.

The prize consists of a trip for the winning classroom for up to 30 students and four adult supervisors to Hervey Bay in October 2018

www.whalesherveybay.com.au

FULL TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. The competition is open to classrooms who are participating in the 2018 Junior Whale Whisperer Art Competition.
a. Entries may be submitted by small groups or whole classrooms, however a teacher from each classroom must agree to these terms and conditions on behalf of each entrant.
b. Multiple entries may be submitted by each classroom.
2. Teachers may enter their classroom into the competition by:
a. Completing the art competition entry form; b. Confirming agreement to these terms and conditions; c. Emailing entry in the form of a digital file (photograph, video or scanned image) to Maureen Murphy e: mmurphy@fcte.com.au during the competition period.
3. The competition commences on Monday 30 July 2018 and ends at 5.00pm on Friday 31 August 2018. Multiple entries may be submitted by each classroom.
4. All entries will be assessed against specific criteria, including: a. Demonstration of whale knowledge (40%); and b. Creativity and effort (60%)
5. Judging of entries will be undertaken by a panel of judges appointed by Fraser Coast Tourism & Events
6. The prize consists of a trip for the winning classroom for up to 30 students and four adult supervisors to Hervey Bay in October 2018, including:
7. Half-day morning or afternoon whale watching tour mid-week on Spirit Hervey Bay.
8. The prize must be taken mid-week during the school term in October 2018.
9. The winner of the prize will be notified by telephone and email on Friday 7 September 2018. The winning school will be responsible for ensuring parent/ guardian consents are obtained from all students who participate in the prize.
10. The major prize cannot be transferred, exchanged or redeemed for cash. Itinerary subject to availability.
11. The Judge's decision concerning any aspect of the competition is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Each entrant releases and indemnifies Fraser Coast Tourism & Events against all liability, cost, loss or expense arising out of acceptance of any prize or participation in the competition.
12. Fraser Coast Tourism & Events may use all entries submitted for their promotional and publicity purposes. 13. The Promoter is Fraser Coast Tourism & Events, PO Box 488 Hervey Bay, Queensland, 4655.