

FUN FACT

Humpback whales can blow bubbles in a special way to create a fish trap!

Humpback Whale

Whales are the largest animals in the world, and the humpback is one of the largest. Humpbacks don't actually have a hump on their back! Their head is covered with bumps called tubercles. Each bump contains at least one stiff hair, believed to help detect movement in the water. Humpbacks are filter feeders, feeding on plankton and small animals living in the oceans. For this reason they don't have teeth, instead they have Baleen. Baleen looks like the fibres in a sweeping brush and is made of keratin (just like your nails and hair). These whales take in a mouthful of water, push it out through the baleen, the remaining plankton gets trapped in the baleen and the whale uses their tongue to lick the plankton off. Yum!



Humpback whales spend 90% of their time under water, coming up to the surface to breathe through their blowhole. Whales are known to jump up out of the water and crash back down, known as breaching. Scientists think that this may be used to warn other whales of danger, to communicate, to clean their skin or even just for fun.



Actions:

- Research how whales communicate
- Find out about the interactions between humans and whales (tourism, food, pollution, hunting etc.)
- Listen to whale song