

Name: _____ **Subject:** Humpback Whale

Date: _____ **Source of Information:** Grolier's Online Encyclopedia

Sample Animal Fact Sheet

Name of animal: Humpback whale

Habitat: ocean, saltwater

Geographic distribution: in all the world's oceans

Description: *Classification:* Mammal/cetacean/baleen/rorqual

Vertebrate or invertebrate: vertebrate

Coloring: gray or black with white undersides

Shape: prominent hump on back and dorsal fin, torpedo-like shape

Type of birth: live **Gestation period:** _____ **Life span:** 90-100 yrs.

Number: one calf **Size at birth: (length) (weight)**

Adult Size: (length): 36-49 ft. **(weight):** 72 tons (as much as 10 elephants)

Food Sources: planktonic crustaceans (krill and copepods)

Movement: migratory **Warm or cold-blooded?** warm-blooded

Natural enemies: orca whales (killer whales)

Endangered? Yes! **If yes, how to help:** Limit whaling. Find other sources of food and income for whalers. Keep oceans clean to keep whales from beaching themselves because they are sick.

Other interesting facts: Humpback whales have two blowholes, and their flippers are longer than all other whales. Flippers are scallop-shaped. They have notched tail flukes, and use their tails to lash out at predators (orcas).

Strongly migratory, they feed along polar coasts in summer. They breed near tropical and subtropical coasts during winter. Humpbacks produce sounds to communicate, commonly called "singing." They live in groups.