



## Orientation

Ensure that you have read about using the plan in the Program Guide.

### Book summary

Read the following summary to the student.

The blue whale has a heart the size of a small car, and it's as long as 18 people lying head to toe. Even more amazing – people and blue whales actually have some things in common.

### Introduction

Foster interest and activate the student's background knowledge. Be concise – focus on motivating and involving the student. Encourage prediction by using the text and illustrations on the cover of the book. Discuss new vocabulary and remind the student to use the glossary (when applicable). Also remind the student to ask him/herself questions before, during and after the reading.

Ask the student to share what they know about the blue whale. Look through the book with them, encouraging them to discuss the pictures and to ask questions. Discuss the characteristics of mammals. Explain that the blue whale is unique because of its size and because it has a lot in common with people.

Discuss the vocabulary in the glossary and the meanings of the other challenging words in the text, such as communicate, equivalent, and automatically.

## Conferencing

### Check how well the student reads

When you are conferencing, the student reads all or part of the book to you. Then:

- praise, pause, and prompt appropriately;
- check for accuracy (by counting mistakes) and fluency;
- check for understanding by using one or more of the following methods:
  - asking the comprehension questions provided and any others that seem necessary;
  - asking the student to retell the story in their own words;
  - asking questions about and discussing aspects of the story, such as the theme, plot, main ideas, sequence and characters;
  - encouraging the student to confirm the predictions they made during the orientation.

### Decide what the student does next

Next recommend that the student:

- practices some more on the same book, with or without the audio;
- completes one of the activities provided that is related to the book;
- practices with another book from the same level; or
- is assessed for promotion to the next level.

## Comprehension questions

1. What things does the author compare a blue whale with?
2. How does a blue whale sleep?
3. How big are a blue whale's veins and arteries?
4. Why do you think the author compares the blue whale with things instead of just telling you about it?
5. Why do you think people are surprised to learn that they have things in common with a blue whale?

## Answers to the Comprehension questions

1. Accept any of the following: humans; dinosaurs; a building; a car; a football team; a jet engine; a drainpipe.
2. Accept any of the following: it floats near the surface of the ocean; very lightly; with only half of its brain asleep at a time.
3. Accept either of the following: big enough for a baby to swim through; bigger than a drainpipe.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Answers will vary.

## Supporting English Language Learners

The following are suggestions for optional lessons to take with your English language learners. See the overview chart in the Program Guide for a summary of the text features of this book.

### Purpose

Responding orally to texts by restating facts and details to clarify ideas

### Introduce the concept and practice

Identifying the facts in a nonfiction text and writing them on a mind map helps the student to understand the text.

Before the student reads the book, explain that it is nonfiction, which means that it is based on factual information. Explain that they will be reading this informational text to learn about the blue whale.

As you read the book to the student, ask them to remember as many facts as they can about the blue whale. After the reading, ask the student what facts they recall. Write them on a mind map in the student's words. Together, look through the book again, checking for facts that the student may have missed. Add these to the mind map using a different-colored pen.

Read and discuss the mind map, then put it away. Ask the student to recall, for the second time, the facts about the blue whale. When he/she has finished, check the mind map for any facts that they missed and discuss strategies that will help the student remember them.





Name: ..... Date: .....

Introduction: The blue whale has a heart the size of a small car, and it's as long as 18 people lying head to toe. Even more amazing – people and blue whales actually have some things in common.

Errors M S

The blue whale is the largest animal that has ever lived on our planet – much larger than any of the dinosaurs! When you were born, \_\_\_\_\_ weighed about the same \_\_\_\_\_ a small cat. When \_\_\_\_\_ blue whale is born, \_\_\_\_\_ weighs more than a \_\_\_\_\_ grown African elephant. That's \_\_\_\_\_ the same weight as 140 ten-year-old \_\_\_\_\_ ! The blue whale \_\_\_\_\_ to the same length \_\_\_\_\_ 18 people lying head \_\_\_\_\_ toe. If an adult \_\_\_\_\_ whale stood on its \_\_\_\_\_ , it would be as \_\_\_\_\_ as a six-story building. \_\_\_\_\_ of a small car. \_\_\_\_\_ imagine something that size \_\_\_\_\_ inside your chest. That's \_\_\_\_\_ big a blue whale's \_\_\_\_\_ is. A blue whale's \_\_\_\_\_ is so large, an \_\_\_\_\_ football team would be \_\_\_\_\_ to stand on it. \_\_\_\_\_ might think that such \_\_\_\_\_ enormous animal has enormous \_\_\_\_\_. Actually, a blue whale \_\_\_\_\_ have any teeth.

Accuracy Chart (Exact word replacement only)

Table with 3 columns: Words Entered, Score, Level. Rows: More than 11 correct (Independent), 10 or 11 correct (Instructional), Fewer than 10 correct (Frustration)

Errors M = Meaning (makes sense) \_\_\_\_\_ S = Syntax (sounds right) \_\_\_\_\_

Heard (circle) Seen (circle) Unseen (circle)

Comments: .....



-----

The blue whale is the largest animal that has ever lived on our planet – much larger than any of the dinosaurs! When you were born, you weighed about the same as a cat. When a blue whale is born, it weighs more than an African elephant.

-----

That's about the same weight as 140 ten-year-old kids! A blue whale's heart is the same size as a small car. A blue whale's tongue is large enough for an entire football team to stand on. A blue whale doesn't have any teeth.

-----

Instead, it has something like a giant hair comb. To feed, it takes in gulps of water, which contains krill. Then, using its tongue, it pushes the water out through the gaps in its comb, and the krill stay inside. Blue whales swim far apart. They keep in touch with each other through their calls.

-----

These calls need to be loud enough to communicate across oceans. Blue whales and humans are both mammals. Human babies and baby blues both drink milk. Blue whales breathe air like you, but they have to come up to the surface to breathe.

-----

Otherwise they will drown. Blue whales and people both have warm blood pumping around their bodies. A blue whale can live about as long as a person can. Many people are surprised to learn that they have things in common with blue whales.

-----





Name: ..... Date: .....

Words can be found in these directions:



The letter in each square can only be used in one word.

l	e	l	e	p	h	a	n	t	a	n	y	b
a	s	l	w	h	i	c	h	h	t	o	w	u
r	a	a	e	f	l	o	u	d	a	n	o	i
g	b	n	m	n	o	e	a	n	d	s	u	l
e	l	h	i	e	g	r	m	i	l	k	l	d
s	e	u	m	o	r	t	d	t	w	o	d	i
t	i	m	a	w	i	n	h	a	o	f	o	n
h	n	a	g	h	b	l	u	e	y	b	c	g
e	s	n	i	a	a	s	s	f	t	u	e	m
a	i	i	n	l	s	d	a	t	r	t	a	a
r	d	t	e	e	o	y	o	i	a	o	n	d
t	e	h	u	n	d	r	e	d	r	n	m	e
a	n	i	m	a	l	t	e	e	t	h	d	i

**Words to find:**

- |        |          |          |         |      |
|--------|----------|----------|---------|------|
| able   | air      | and      | animal  | any  |
| as     | blue     | building | but     | day  |
| do     | elephant | for      | from    | has  |
| heart  | human    | hundred  | imagine | in   |
| inside | it       | largest  | length  | loud |
| made   | milk     | ocean    | of      | or   |
| same   | so       | stand    | teeth   | to   |
| two    | whale    | which    | would   |      |

Use the letters that are left to make the word that tells how many years some blue whales can live for. ....





- ★ Spin the numbered spinner.
- ★ The highest number starts.
- ★ You need to spin the exact number to move onto the END square.

**START**  
The blue whale is the largest animal that has ever lived on our planet!

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
----------	----------	----------

<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Blue whales make the loudest and lowest sound of any creature. Spin again. Go back that number.	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b> A newborn blue whale weighs more than an African elephant. Spin again. Go forward that number.
<b>18</b> Blue whales feed on tiny creatures called krill. Go on to 22.	<b>END</b> Many people are surprised to learn that they have things in common with a blue whale – the giant that’s a lot like you!		<b>23</b> Blue whales are mammals, just like you. Go forward three spaces.	<b>5</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>29</b>		<b>25</b> Baby blue whales drink milk from their mom. Go on to 28.	<b>7</b> An adult blue whale is as long as a six-story building is high. Name two numbers. If you spin one of them, go on to 11.
<b>15</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b> Some blue whales live for 90 years or more. Spin again. If you spin a 5 or 6, go on to 29.	<b>26</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>14</b> A blue whale doesn’t have any teeth. Miss a turn.	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b> A blue whale’s heart is as big as a small car. Go back two spaces.
				<b>9</b>





Name: ..... Date: .....

Design a poster, using words and pictures, to tell people how special the blue whale is. Make sure that you include at least one amazing fact.

Write on the back of this page if you need more space.



Describe one of the following: the size of a blue whale, what a blue whale looks like, how a blue whale eats, how a blue whale communicates, or what blue whales have in common with people.

