

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Blue Whales

(Why so Sad?)

Directions: Use the information from the story to answer the questions below. Write your answer with a complete sentence. **Underline or highlight the sentence where you found the information.**

1. What do blue whales eat?

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2. What are some reasons why blue whales are disappearing?

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3. How big was the longest whale ever recorded? (circle one)

- A. 30 feet      B. 106 feet      C. 150 feet      D. 106 pounds

4. What are small groups of whales called? (circle one)

- A. herds      B. flocks      C. schools      D. pods

5. A blue whale is a mammal. Can you name some other mammals?

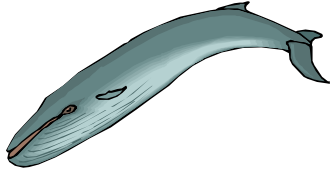
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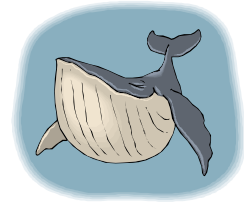
# Blue Whales

(Why so Sad?)

Do you know what the largest mammal ever to inhabit our planet is? If you said an elephant, you are wrong. Look up at the top of the page. That's right! Blue whales are the largest mammals to ever be on earth. Want to know more? Keep on reading below.



A baleen plate or "whalebone" is like a giant comb covered with hair. As ocean water is pushed through it, krill and plankton are caught on the hairs.



Blue whales are big. They can get between 70 to 80 feet in length (the longest one ever recorded was 106 feet long.)

Get a ruler out and measure that. Blue whales can weigh as

much as 90 to 150 tons. With

with a body that big, you might think that whales eat other big animals. Actually, these enormous mammals eat tiny organisms, like plankton and

krill, which they filter through baleen plates. Baleen plates are filters that are in place of their teeth. A blue whale can eat up to 7,715 pounds of krill (small shrimp-like creatures) per day!

Blue whales are found throughout the world's oceans. These gentle giants have grayish-blue skin with light spots. They live in small groups called "pods." The number of blue whales in the world's oceans has dropped greatly. Blue whales are dying in fishing nets and being hunted illegally. Most scientists believe there are only around 2000 to 5000 blue whales left in the oceans.