

Southern Right Whale

The Southern Right Whale is very similar to the Northern Right Whale.

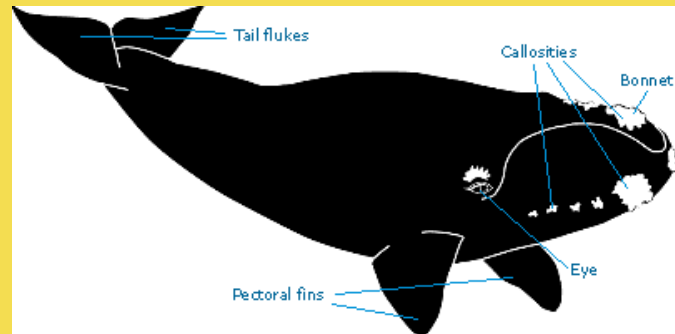
There are some small differences to the shape of the head that allow scientists to tell them apart. They are about 5-6 metres long at birth. Adults can reach almost 18 m in length. They have a broad back with no fin and their body is round and fat. They are slow swimmers but are very acrobatic. They were also called Black Whale since they yielded so-called "black oil".

This whale's slow speed and the fact that its body is so rich in oil that it floats, even when dead, led to it to be the "right whale" to catch. As a consequence of them being an easy catch right whales, both northern and southern, suffered most of all from the centuries of slaughter.

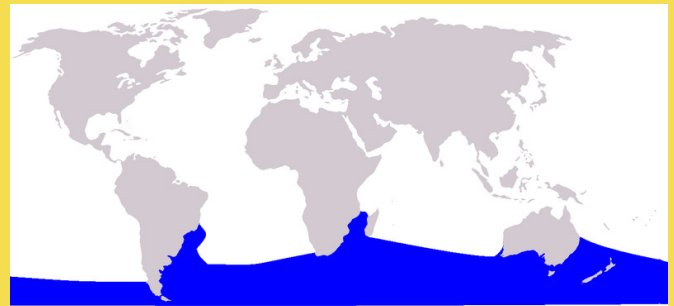
They are an endangered species because they were hunted for meat, whalebone and valuable oil. They have been protected since 1937 and have shown signs of recovery. They are slow breeders, which means that the species has been slow to recover.



A very old illustration of a Southern Right Whale.



They have a large head, which is covered in callosities. Callosities are skin thickenings that are home to whale lice and barnacles.

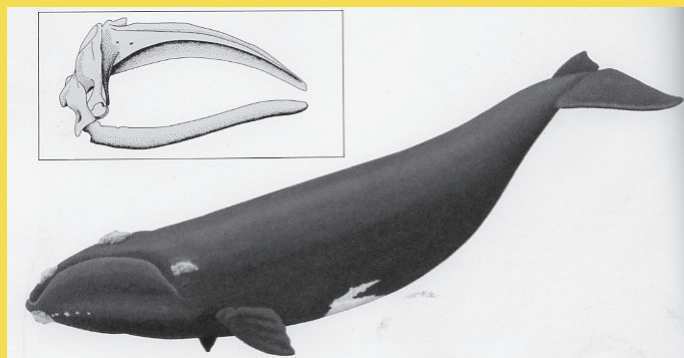


They are found throughout the Antarctic, southern South America, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and high latitudes of the Indian Ocean.



For more interesting information on whales check out our website: aworldwithwhales.com/whale-kids

SAVING THE
WHALE
MEANS SAVING
ITS HISTORY



They are baleen whales so they do not have teeth. Instead, they catch krill using the baleen plates in their mouth.