

### Sperm Whales

Sperm whales are named for the spermaceti oil (wax) that they produce in the spermaceti organs located in the head. Men hunted sperm whales for spermaceti which was used to make candles through the 19th century. Sperm whales are dark grey. There can be light grey or white markings around the mouth and on their belly. They can live for at least 60 to 70 years.

Sperm whales are one of the deepest diving whales. They usually dive hundreds of metres for as long as 40 minutes, but dive 2km or deeper for over two hours! Sperm whales

eat pray found on or near the ocean bottom. Squid are their main food source, but they also eat octopi, sharks and various bony fish. Unlike other whales, which feed only in certain times of the year, the sperm whale feeds all the time. They eat about 3% of their body weight each day. For an adult male, this could mean almost 2 tonnes of food each day!

Sperm whales live in oceans all over the world, except Antarctica and Arctic waters. Females and young sperm whales live in groups, while older males live by themselves.



### Fast Facts!

- 1 Up to one third of the sperm whale's total body length is its head. Their brain is the largest of any animal (up to 9kg!)
- 2 They have a ridge along the backs with bumps and thick ridge near the base of the tail. Their dorsal fin is low, thick and wide.
- 3 They have teeth on the lower jaw only.
- 4 Their flippers are short and wide, with rounded tips. The flukes (end of tail) are triangular with a straight back edge.
- 5 Their blowhole is near the front of the head and off to the left side. It is unique because it shoots water forward rather than upwards.

**SAVING THE  
WHALE  
MEANS SAVING  
ITS HISTORY**

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