

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

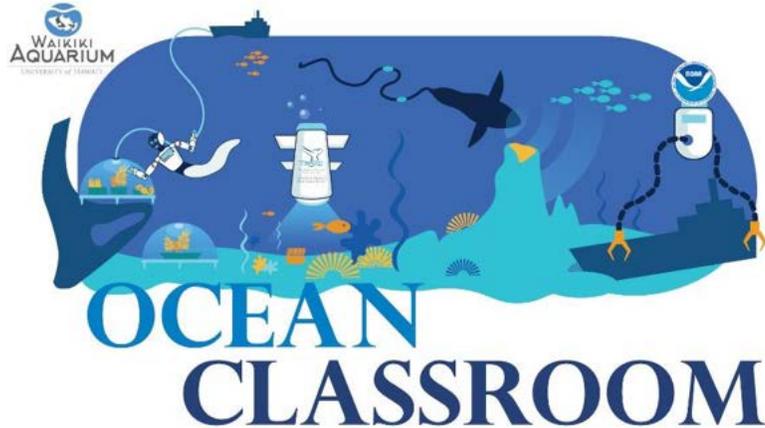
“Humpback Whales 101”

Grade Level: 4-8

Timeframe: 45 Minutes

Materials

- Access to the ppt and way to show it to the students.
- Blank paper for the “Draw the Whale to Scale” activity.
- Printed copies of the whale trivia for the students



Key Words

- **Baleen:** A whale has baleen instead of teeth. There are about 200 plates that are about 6ft long that hang down from the roof of the mouth. The plates serve as a strainer that catches the krill and small fish.
- **Tubercles:** Small bumps on the head of the whale. A hair grows out of each tubercle.



- **Peduncle:** The strong muscle that connects the body to the tail.

Lesson Summary

The 30 minute video gives teachers ideas and support materials to help to teach a lesson about the basic biology of a humpback whale. How big is a humpback whale? Why do they migrate from Alaska to Hawaii and back again? Learn how to draw a humpback whale to scale as you learn about the biology.

Learning Objectives

- After watching the power point presentation, students will be able to list 8 facts about humpback whales.
- Students will be able to describe the life cycle of a humpback whale.
- Students will be able to draw a whale to scale and label all of its body parts.

Background Information

This lesson is filled with fun trivia facts about the humpback whales. See the attached student reading sheet of these facts or they can be found on the Humpback Whale website,

<https://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/>

Preparation

1. Set up the ppt presentation for students to watch.
2. Print off copies of the "Whale Trivia Facts" for students.
3. Have blank paper available for students

Procedure

1. **Introduce** the lesson by having students work in teams or small groups to list everything that they know about humpback whales. Discuss as a class.

2. **Draw a Whale Scale:** Students need a blank piece of paper and something to draw with. Review the tape and see the directions on how to draw a whale to scale. Include facts from the Whale Trivia as you lead the students thru this drawing

- Fold a piece of paper into thirds (a hot dog fold). The paper represents the size of the whale. The whale is about 45 feet long so each section is equal to 15 feet.
- The basic body shape is like a sausage or a pickle. Draw the body through 2 segments of the paper. So the body is about 30 feet long.
- The tail is equal to 1/3 the size of the whale, draw the tail, including the markings on the underside of the tail that are unique to just that whale.
- The pec fins are 1/3 the size of the body, or 15 feet. Draw the pec fins in starting about 1/3 the way down the body.
- The mouth is about 1/3 the length of the body. Draw in the mouth, add the ventral pleats on the bottom side of the head. Add an eye ball about 1/3 of the way back on the body.

- Add a dorsal fin.
- Add 2 blow holes about 1/3 back on the head.
- Add the tubercles and hair to the top of the head

3. **Whale Trivia Activity:** Assign each student a whale trivia fact. Have them design a poster that explains the fact, using more images than words. Display on a wall, challenge students to figure out the facts from the drawings.

For More Information

Check out the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary's web site <http://hawaiianhumpbackwhale@noaa.gov>, for more information about the sanctuary and teacher and student pages for more activities

