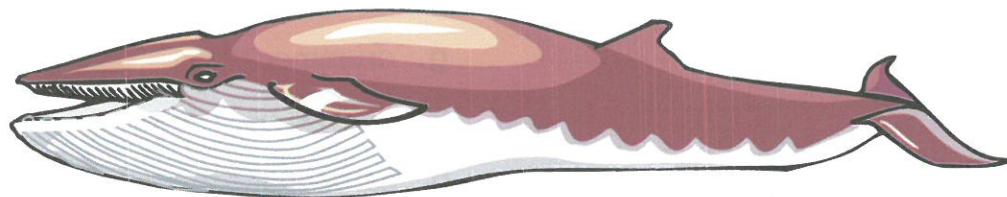


Baleen Whales

Baleen whales get their name from the baleen in their mouths. Baleen is a fringe of tough, elastic material which grows from the top gum. This works as a sieve does. It catches the krill on which the whale feeds. Krill are tiny shrimps or other crustaceans.

There are two groups of baleen whales. The members of one group are known as 'gulpers'. They swim rapidly, taking in huge amounts of water and food. Then, they close their mouths and use their tongues to push the water out through the baleen. Any little creatures in the water are trapped inside the baleen and swallowed. Some gulpers blow bubbles to make their prey cluster together and easier to catch. This is called 'bubble-net feeding'.

The other group of whales, known as 'right' whales, skim their food from the water. They swim slowly near the surface with their mouths open. The food is collected on the baleen plates as the water flows out.



Let's think about what we have read!

1. Identifying the text

This text is:

- a procedure
- a report
- a narrative

2. Understanding the text

Choose the correct answer.

- a. Baleen grows
 - from the top lip.
 - from the bottom gum.
 - from the top gum.
- b. Baleen whales feed on
 - fish.
 - krill.
 - kelp.
- c. Krill is made up of
 - tiny plants.
 - tiny shrimps.
 - tiny fish.
- d. 'Bubble-net feeding' is used by
 - gulpers.
 - right whales.
 - prey.
- e. 'Right' whales
 - swim rapidly with their mouths open.
 - swim slowly with their mouths open.
 - swim slowly and gulp down their food.
- f. The main idea of the first paragraph is
 - to describe 'gulpers'.
 - to describe 'right' whales.
 - to describe baleen.
- g. The purpose of the text is to
 - entertain.
 - persuade.
 - inform.
- h. This text might form part of which of these books?
 - "Amazing Fish."
 - "The Wonderful World of Whales."
 - "Wally the Whale."
- i. Which of these statements is true?
 - "Right" whales blow bubbles.
 - "Gulpers swim fast."
 - "There are three groups of baleen whales."