



### Marine Mammal Madness: Fact Sheet

#### Key Terms:

- A **mammal** is an animal that is warm blooded, has hair, gives birth to live young, and feeds their young with milk.
- Marine mammals** include cetaceans, pinnipeds, sea otters, sirenians (manatees and dugongs) and polar bears.
- All whales, dolphins, and porpoises are **cetaceans**.
- **Baleen** -- stiff plates in the upper jaw of some whales, used to filter out tiny animals from the water for food.
- Toothed whales can use **echolocation** - emitting a sound and then listening to the echo - to navigate and locate prey.
- Seals, sea lions, and walruses are **pinnipeds**.
- Mustelids** are a group of mammals that includes weasels, ferrets, and otters.
- Sea otters are **keystone species**; these are organisms whose existence is critical to the balance of their ecosystem.

- Baleen whale species are some of the world's largest living animals. In fact, the biggest of all - the blue whale - is the largest animal to have ever existed and can be longer than the Ocean Voyager tunnel (100 feet!).
- Toothed whales include belugas, narwhals, sperm whales, dolphins and porpoises. These are social animals that can use echolocation to navigate and locate prey. Georgia Aquarium is home to both belugas and bottlenose dolphins.
- What is the difference between a seal and a sea lion? Sea lions have ear flaps called "pinnae", while seals have ear holes. On land, sea lions can walk on all four flippers, seals cannot, they move caterpillar-like.
- Sea otters are related to weasels and ferrets. They play an important role in maintaining the balance of the kelp forests in which they live by keeping sea urchin populations under control through predation. This affects many species since a healthy kelp plant provides a home for many marine animals.
- Marine mammals face threats from pollution, loss of prey through overfishing and climate change. Georgia Aquarium participates in valuable research programs worldwide, in order to help protect wild marine mammal populations.

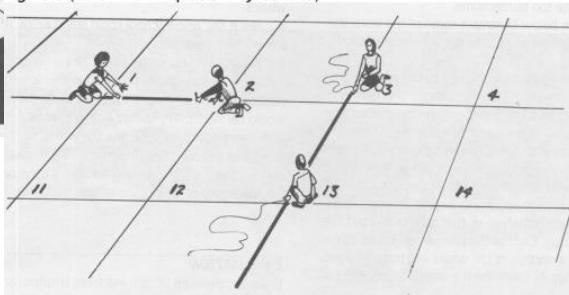
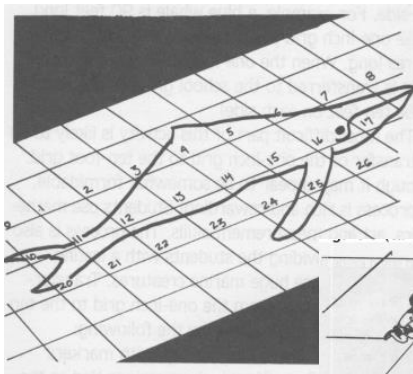




## Marine Mammal Madness Activity: How Big Are Whales?

### Materials:

- 1 x 1 inch grid paper (included)
- Whale Cutouts (included)
- Pencil or pen
- Chalk
- Measuring tape



Adapted from

[http://cioss.coas.oregonstate.edu/CIOSS/Documents/Outreach/Aug08/3Whale\\_of\\_a\\_Scale.pdf](http://cioss.coas.oregonstate.edu/CIOSS/Documents/Outreach/Aug08/3Whale_of_a_Scale.pdf)

### Instructions:

1. Choose one of the whale species from the included drawings.
2. Cut out the whale you chose.
3. On the piece of one-inch grade paper that has been provided, trace the outline of the whale. This is your "master drawing".
4. Find a sidewalk or quiet street. With the measuring tape, draw 10x10 foot squares to recreate the one inch grids on your master drawing. You don't have to include all the squares, just the ones that included a part of the whale drawing.
5. Now, reproduce each part of the master drawing in each one of the 10x10 squares until you have drawn a life-size outline of your whale species.
6. Fill in the rest of your whale with the details like eyes and markings (see the whale drawings included).
7. Get creative! See how many of your friends and family it takes to stretch across the whale, have a race from one end of the whale to the other or label and write some facts about your whale in chalk. Make several different whales to compare their sizes!



## Whale Cutouts

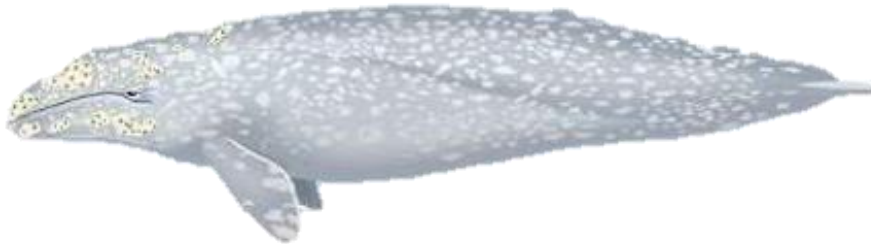
Sperm whale – 55 ft



Right whale – 50 ft



Gray whale – 45 ft





## Whale Cutouts

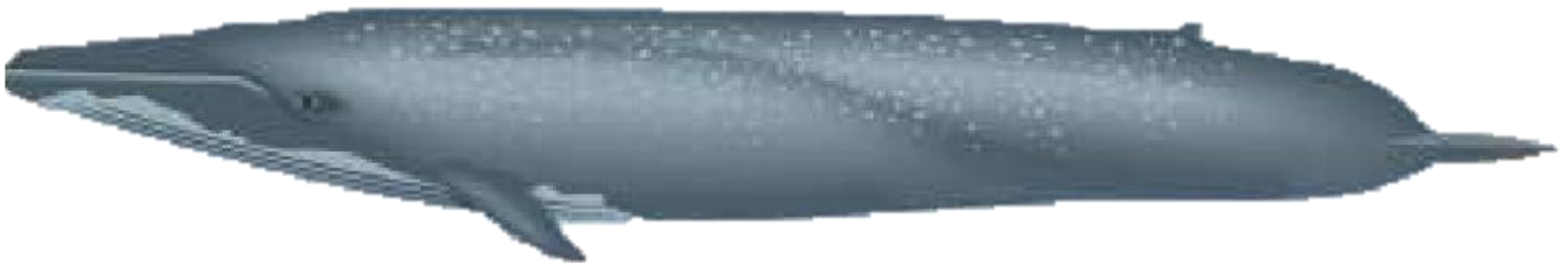
Humpback whale – 50 ft



Fin whale – 70 ft



Blue whale – 100 ft





1x1 Inch Grid Paper

