

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

INSTRUCTIONS

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

A Whale of a Tale

How Whales Breathe

Whales are large animals. They live in the water. Some people think whales are fish, but fish breathe underwater through gills. Whales don't. Whales come to the surface of the water to breathe. Whales have lungs and breathe air, like we do.

Wow! That's Fin-tastic!

There are many kinds of whales. The biggest is the blue whale. Blue whales can grow to be over 90 feet long. That is the height of a 9-story building! That makes them the largest of all animals. The smallest whale is the dwarf sperm whale. They grow to only about eight-and-a-half feet long.

Whales eat tiny algae, plankton, and plants. Whales also eat small and large fish. Some whales have even been known to eat penguins!

Whale Communities

Many types of whales live in groups. They travel and hunt in these groups. These groups are called "pods." Animals that hunt whales are less likely to attack whales swimming in pods. Underwater, whales can "sing" to other whales in their pods. This is how they talk to each other.

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

1. Which of the following is the best conclusion for the section “Wow! That’s Fin-tastic”?
 - a. Whales’ favorite food is plankton.
 - b. Whales need to eat a lot of food.
 - c. Whales eat different foods depending on the season.
 - d. Whales eat lots of different types of food.

2. Whales that swim together in groups are most likely
 - a. slower than whales that swim alone
 - b. safer than whales that swim alone
 - c. happier than other types of whales
 - d. able to breathe more easily underwater

3. Are whales a kind of fish?

4. What details support your answer to question 3?
