

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Blue Whales

(Why so Sad?)

Directions: Use the information from the story to answer the questions below. Write your answer with a complete sentence. **Underline or highlight the sentence where you found the information.**

1. What do blue whales eat?

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2. What are some reasons why blue whales are disappearing?

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3. How big was the longest whale ever recorded? (circle one)

A. 30 feet

B. 106 feet

C. 150 feet

D. 106 pounds

4. What are small groups of whales called? (circle one)

A. herds

B. flocks

C. schools

D. pods

5. A blue whale is a mammal. Can you name some other mammals?

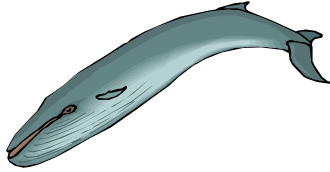
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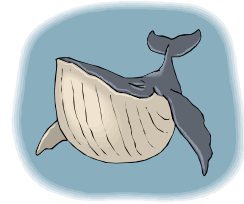
# Blue Whales

(Why so Sad?)

Do you know what the largest mammal ever to inhabit our planet is? If you said an elephant, you are wrong. Look up at the top of the page. That's right! Blue whales are the largest mammals to ever be on earth. Want to know more? Keep on reading below.



A baleen plate or "whalebone" is like a giant comb covered with hair. As ocean water is pushed through it, krill and plankton are caught on the hairs.



Blue whales are big. They can get between 70 to 80 feet in length (the longest one ever recorded was 106 feet long.)

Get a ruler out and measure that. Blue whales can weigh as

much as 90 to 150 tons. With

a body that big, you might think that whales eat other big animals. Actually, these enormous mammals eat tiny organisms, like plankton and

krill, which they filter through baleen plates. Baleen plates are filters that are in place of their teeth. A blue whale can eat up to 7,715 pounds of krill (small shrimp-like creatures) per day!

Blue whales are found throughout the world's oceans. These gentle giants have grayish-blue skin with light spots. They live in small groups called "pods." The number of blue whales in the world's oceans has dropped greatly. Blue whales are dying in fishing nets and being hunted illegally. Most scientist believe there are only around 2000 to 5000 blue whales left in the oceans.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Irregular Plural Nouns

The regular plural form of nouns is made by adding an “s” to the end of the word. However, some words do not follow that rule. Plural forms that are made in some way other than just adding an “s” are called *irregular* plural forms.

Make the plural form of nouns ending in “ch,” “sh,” “x,” “o,” or “ss” by adding “es”.



one church  
two churches



one brush  
two brushes



one fox  
two foxes

Make the plural form of some nouns ending in “f” or “fe” by dropping the “f” or “fe” and adding “ves”.



one knife  
two knives

one wolf  
two wolves



Make the plural form of many words ending in “y” by dropping the “y” and adding “ies”.



one baby  
two babies

Make the plural form of some “oo” words by changing to “ee”.



one foot  
two feet

one tooth  
two teeth



Some irregular plurals just have to be remembered:

one man, two men

one child, two children

one woman, two women

one cactus, two cacti

one index, two indices

one mouse, two mice

Write the irregular plural form of each noun:

- |           |       |              |       |
|-----------|-------|--------------|-------|
| 1. wish   | _____ | 2. wife      | _____ |
| 2. elf    | _____ | 4. butterfly | _____ |
| 3. family | _____ | 6. shelf     | _____ |
| 4. goose  | _____ | 8. tomato    | _____ |
| 5. flash  | _____ | 10. dress    | _____ |
| 6. box    | _____ | 12. bench    | _____ |

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| 2. elf    | <u>elves</u>    | 4. butterfly | <u>butterflies</u> |
| 3. family | <u>families</u> | 6. shelf     | <u>shelves</u>     |
| 4. goose  | <u>geese</u>    | 8. tomato    | <u>tomatoes</u>    |
| 5. flash  | <u>flashes</u>  | 10. dress    | <u>dresses</u>     |
| 6. box    | <u>boxes</u>    | 12. bench    | <u>benches</u>     |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Sally's Dilemma (Problem)

by [www.theteachersguide.com](http://www.theteachersguide.com)

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Sally picked up a pumpkin, sighed, and put it down again.

"You need to hurry up," said her mother. "We can't stay here all day."

"Just pick one already," growled Sally's brother.

Sally looked at her brother and sister. They each had their own pumpkin in their arms. She then looked around the patch and at all of the pumpkins. There were hundreds of them.

"I can't find the one I want," she cried.

Her mother bent down and pointed at a small one. "Here is a nice one," she said.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

It was tucked in nice and tight among the bigger pumpkins. Sally picked it up and thumped it. She looked at the small pumpkin and back at her brother and sister.

"It looks just like their pumpkins," she groaned. She put the pumpkin back on the ground.

Sally could hear her sister whisper to her brother, "We're never going home."

"Sally," her mother said softly. "That pumpkin is different. It is smaller and cuter than any other pumpkin here."

"I know," said Sally. "But it is orange just like all of the others."

"All pumpkins are orange!" shouted her brother.

Mr. Fall, the pumpkin patch owner, walked up to Sally. "Not all pumpkins are orange," he said. "Follow me, I have something to show you."

Mr. Fall took Sally's family to a small part of the patch, hidden at the bottom of the hill.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

"Go ahead," he said with a smile. "Take a look"

Sally dug underneath the leaves of the plants. She gasped and smiled as she gently lifted a small, white pumpkin into her arms.

"It's perfect mommy," she said with a big grin. "Let's go home!"

1. What is Sally's problem in this story? (problem-solution)

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2. Where does this story take place? (setting)

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3. Describe the pumpkin Sally finally chose.

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4. Could this story really happen? Why or why not?

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