

# KILLER WHALES

**K**iller whales are powerful predators that eat fish, seals, sharks and even other whales. However, they are not interested in eating people. There has been only one attack on a person in the wild. Scientists believe the whale mistook a surfer for a seal. Interestingly, the whale realized the mistake and spat the person out.

Nope, no whale down there.

## Camo Colors

From the land, the orca's black and white pattern may not look like good camouflage. But it is, and it helps the orca sneak up on its prey.

When an orca is swimming in the deep, fish swimming above it look down and see only inky darkness.

Fish swimming below an orca look up to the white of the orca's underbody, which blends with the bright light of the sun shining down.

**Standards Link:** Life Science: Students know that living organisms have distinct structures and body systems that serve specific functions in growth, survival and reproduction.

## Let's Draw It!

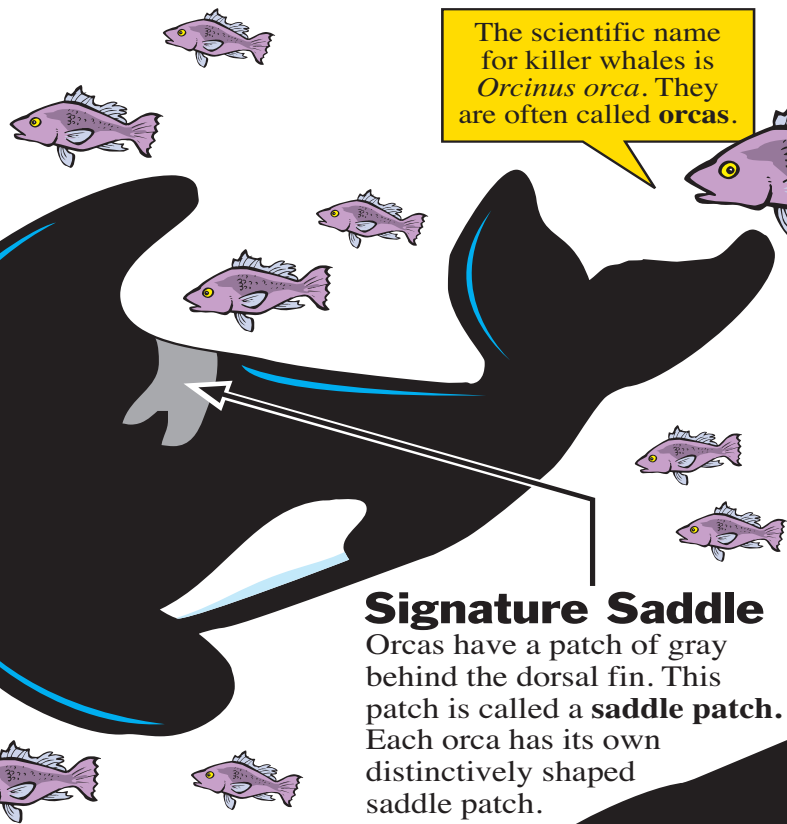
Follow these easy steps to create a whale of a drawing!

## Is it a fish?

Orcas look a bit like fish and live in the sea, but they are mammals. They are warm-blooded, feed their young with milk and breathe air through nostrils called **blowholes**. Orcas must hold their breath when they are underwater.

## How long can a killer whale hold its breath?

★ = E  
 ▲ = F  
 ○ = I  
 ● = M  
 ◻ = N  
 ✕ = S  
 ◻ = T  
 ○ = U

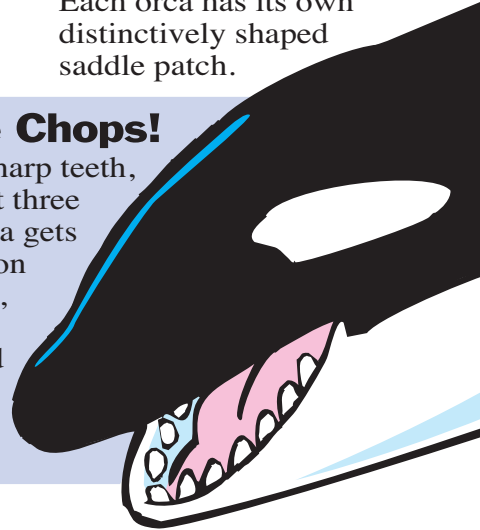


## Signature Saddle

Orcas have a patch of gray behind the dorsal fin. This patch is called a **saddle patch**. Each orca has its own distinctively shaped saddle patch.

## Check Out the Chops!

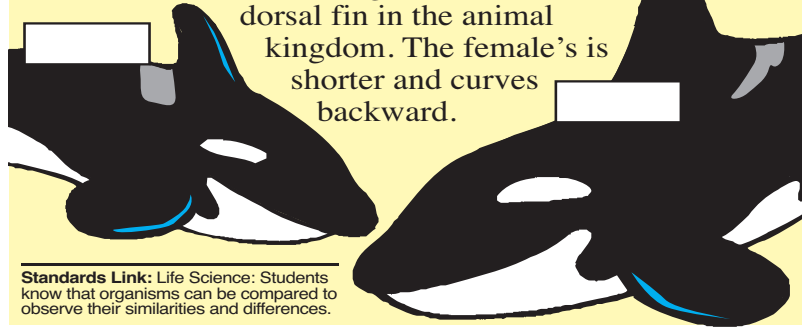
Orcas have 40 to 52 sharp teeth, each of which is about three inches long. As an orca gets older, it grows layers on the outside of its teeth, forming rings. If you slice an orca tooth and count the layers, you can discover the age of the orca.



## Male or female?

Look at the two pictures, then read how to tell the difference between a male and female orca. Label each one.

The male dorsal fin is upright and triangular. It can be about six feet high and is the tallest dorsal fin in the animal kingdom. The female's is shorter and curves backward.



**Standards Link:** Life Science: Students know that organisms can be compared to observe their similarities and differences.

**Extra! Extra!**  
**Black and White and Red All Over**  
 Look at one page of today's newspaper and circle in red all the words you know!

**Standards Link:** Vocabulary: Understand level-appropriate reading vocabulary.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

Each underwater creature is worth points. Which bubble has the highest score?

= +15  
 = +11  
 = +9  
 = -20

**Standards Link:** Number Sense: Calculate sums and differences.

## Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

BLOWHOLES  
 DORSAL  
 KILLER  
 WHALES  
 ORCINUS  
 FIN  
 SURFER  
 SEAL  
 NOSTRILS  
 RINGS  
 PATCH  
 GRAY  
 WILD  
 LIGHT

W	S	E	L	O	H	W	O	L	B
T	O	H	K	R	A	H	S	K	A
H	L	R	E	H	R	A	I	O	R
G	F	A	C	E	W	L	Y	T	I
I	A	T	F	I	L	E	A	L	N
L	A	R	L	E	N	S	R	E	G
P	U	D	R	I	E	U	G	O	S
S	R	C	F	D	O	R	S	A	L
A	T	S	L	I	R	T	S	O	N

**Standards Link:** Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

**Standards Link:** Life Science: Students know that living organisms have distinct structures and body systems that serve specific functions in growth, survival and reproduction.

**Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS**

**This week's word: DORSAL**

The adjective **dorsal** means the top side or back of an animal.

Orcas have tall, pointy **dorsal** fins.

Try to use the word **dorsal** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

**Synonym Search**  
 Orca and killer whale are *synonyms*. Synonyms have the same or nearly the same meaning. Look through today's newspaper for five or more pairs of synonyms. Write a paragraph using all ten words.

**Standards Link:** Grammar: Identify synonyms.

**Where does seaweed look for a job?**

ANSWER: In the "Help Wanted" ads!

## Write On!

**A Whale of a Pet**

What would your life be like with a whale for a pet?

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