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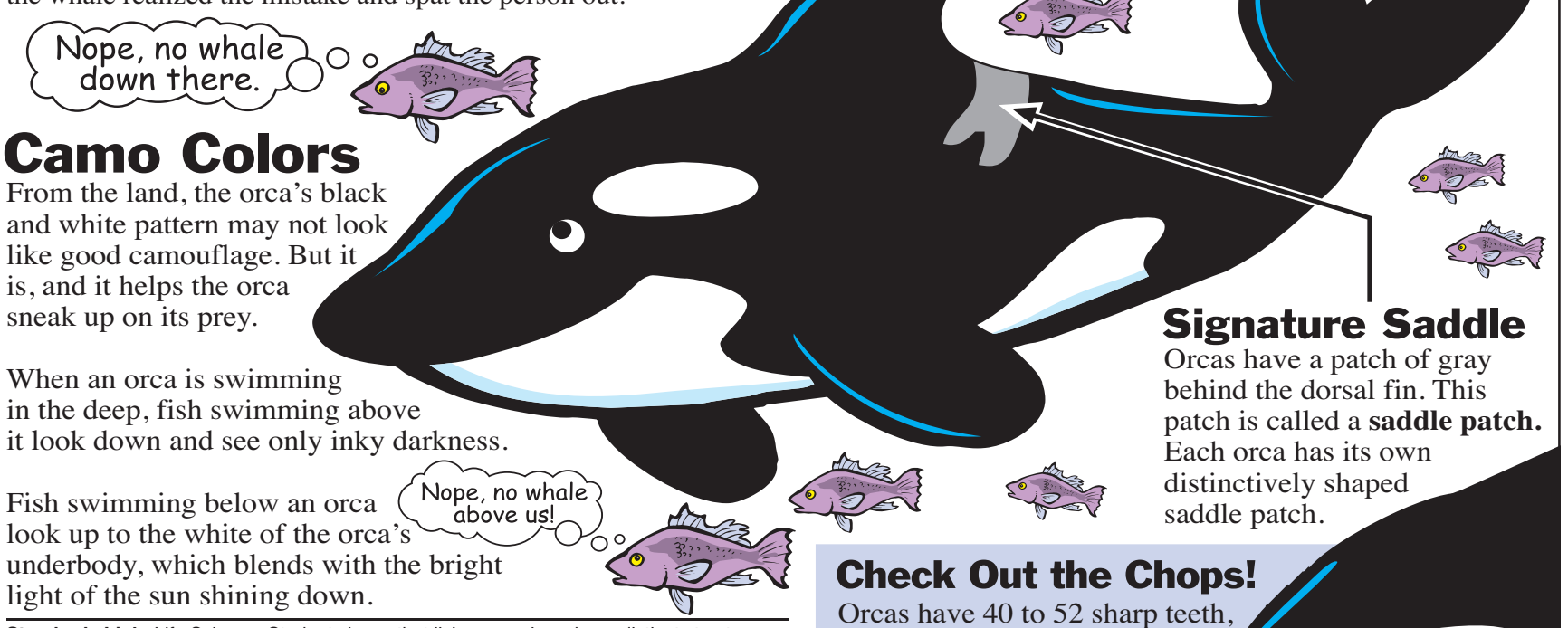
# Killer Whales

Killer 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.




## 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.

## 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.

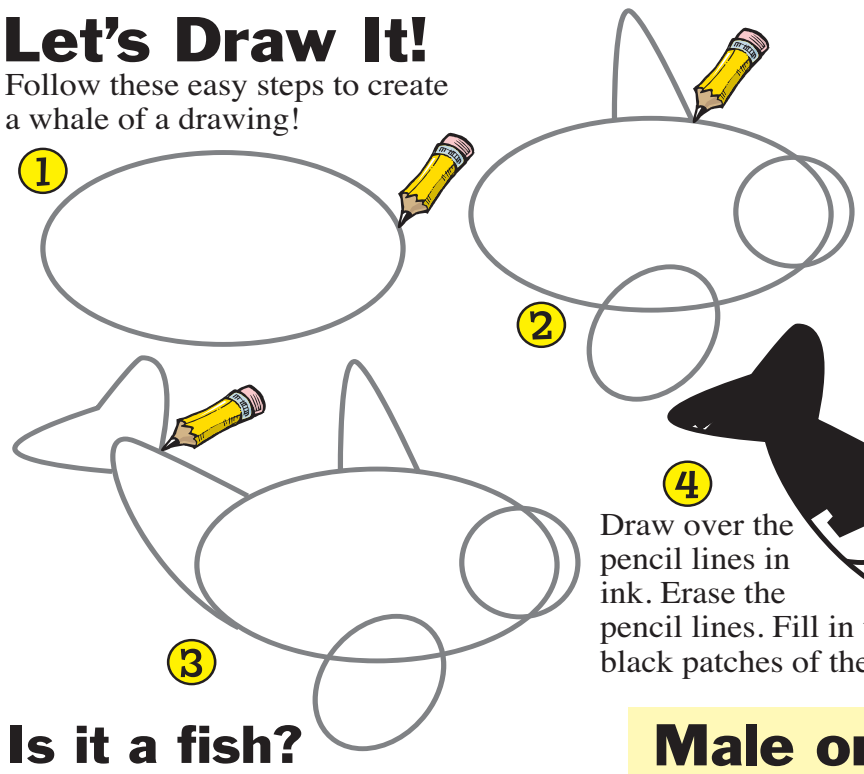
## Check Out the Chops!

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.

**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!

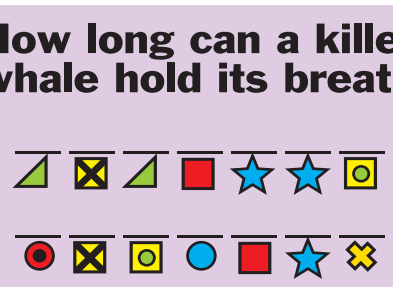



4 Draw over the pencil lines in ink. Erase the pencil lines. Fill in the black patches of the body.

## 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.

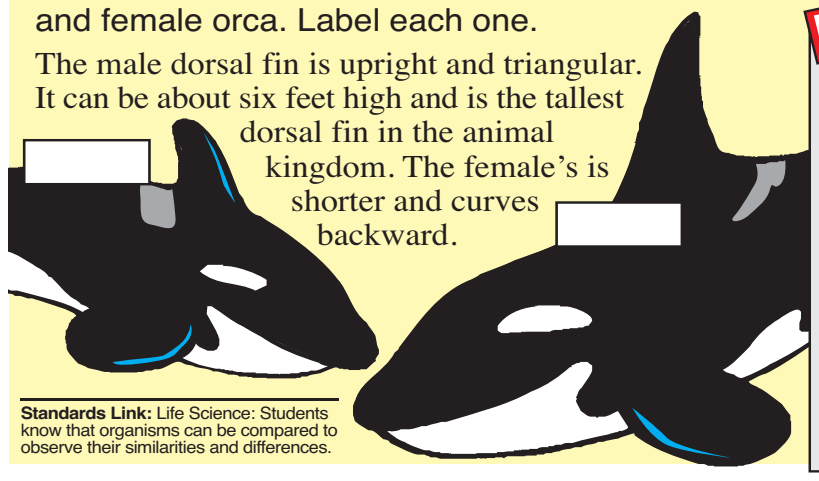
## How long can a killer whale hold its breath?




## 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?




**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.

## 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.

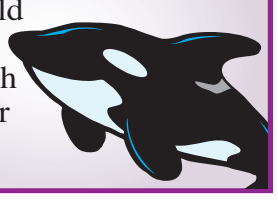
## Where does seaweed look for a job?

ANSWER: In the "Kelp Wanted" ads!

## Write On!

### A Whale of a Pet

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



## Kid Scoop Together: Proof It!

*Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Read the article below and circle the **six errors** you find. Then rewrite it correctly on the lines below the article.*

### Whale Life

Orca babies are called **calves.** They are born undurwater. As soon as the calf is born, the mother orca helps it swim to the surface for its first breathe of air.

The calf will drink its mother's cream-like milk for too years. The milk is about 48% fat and helps the calf develop a thin, warm layer of blubber.

The calf will start eating solid food such as herring, young salmon and squid at about tree months old.

An orca never leaves it's family. Even a fully grown adult male spends its life with the family group called a **pod.**

Most pods have between 5 and 50 orcas. Occasionally, two or more pods meat and briefly form a "superpod" with up to 150 orcas.

**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.