

# WHALES AND WHALING

## EXTENSION AND HOME ACTIVITIES

### Website resources

Sites about whales and whale conservation

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whale)

[www.ifaw.org](http://www.ifaw.org)

[www.oceania.org.au](http://www.oceania.org.au)

[www.wdcs.org.au/index.php](http://www.wdcs.org.au/index.php)

[www.whales.org.au](http://www.whales.org.au)

[www.whales-online.org](http://www.whales-online.org)

Specific sites about whale watching

[www.oceania.org.au/wwwlinks/watch.html](http://www.oceania.org.au/wwwlinks/watch.html)

[www.whaleanddolfinwatchaustralia.com.au/index.php](http://www.whaleanddolfinwatchaustralia.com.au/index.php)

It is vital that we educate our students in the dangers and consequences of whaling and the environmental impact of such practices. Where possible, encourage students see whales in their natural environment next time they visit the coast.

### Whale watching

Have students research Australia's main whale watching areas and report back to the class with a brief presentation about one of the areas. Here are some vantage points to consider:

#### *Victoria*

- Cape Otway (May to October)
- Logans Beach/Warrnambool (June to September)
- As well as Gabo Island, Port Fairy and Wilsons Promontory

#### *New South Wales*

- Cape Byron (June to July and September to October)
- Sydney coastal area (June to July and late September to October)
- South Coast (June to July and September to November)

#### *Western Australia*

- North West Cape (June to August)
- Shark Bay (June to October)
- Esperance (June to October)

#### *South Australia*

- Fleurieu Peninsula and Head of Bright (June to August)
- As well as Victor Harbour, Kangaroo Island, Yorke Peninsula, Port Lincoln, Streaky Bay

#### *Queensland*

- Hervey Bay, Whitsunday Islands, Morton and Stradbroke Islands (August to September)

#### *Tasmania*

- Storm Bay, Bicheno, Bruny and Maria Islands (September to November)

### **Recent events**

Despite dozens of resolutions passed by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) calling on Japan to reconsider its scientific whaling program, Japan recently killed 863 whales, including 10 fin whales. In the future Japan plans to kill even more whales including the endangered humpback whale that swims past Australian shores every year.

Encourage students to consult the Internet and media reports to find out why Japan is in favour of whaling. Ask students to discuss their findings in class.

### **Protect our whales**

Ask students to create either a PowerPoint display or a poster promoting the message 'Protect Our Whales'. Allow the students to present their finished product to different classes around the school as a means of educating other students.

### **Media watch\_**

- Encourage the students to keep an eye out for any newspaper reports or stories about whaling. Ask them to bring their findings to class.
- Compile a class scrapbook of the students' findings.

### **Whale tales**

'Brainstorm' with the class and list as many stories as you can about whales or which involving whales as characters. Ask the students to present short verbal summaries of these chosen stories. Encourage the students to write their own short stories involving a whale or whales. Have them include an environmental theme as part of their narrative.