Name: _____ Date: _____

Whales and Fish: Alike but Different

Circle group

A whale and a fish both live in the sea. Both have a smooth body. Both swim fast. A whale can look like a big fish. But a whale is not a fish.

Look at breathing. A fish takes in air from the water with gills. A whale has lungs, like you. It must come up to the surface to breathe air. It breathes through a blowhole on top of its head.

Look at the babies. Most fish lay eggs. A mother whale has a live baby, called a calf. The calf drinks milk from its mother.

Look at the tail. A fish moves its tail from side to side. A whale moves its tail up and down.

A whale is a mammal, like a dog or a cat. It is warm blooded. Most fish are cold blooded.

Questions

1. What is one way a whale and a fish are alike?

_____

_____

2. How does a fish take in air?

_____

_____

3. What is a baby whale called?

_____

_____

4. How does a whale move its tail?

_____

_____

5. Why must a whale come up to the surface?

_____

_____

6. What kind of animal is a whale?

_____

Words to know

blowhole: the hole on top of a whale's head used for breathing
calf: a baby whale
mammal: an animal that has hair or fur and feeds its babies milk
surface: the top of the water
gills: body parts that let a fish breathe in water

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Whales and Fish: Alike but Different

Triangle group

Whales and fish share the ocean. Both have smooth bodies that glide along, and both are good swimmers. A whale might even look like a very big fish at first. Even so, whales belong to a different group from fish.

Start with breathing. A fish takes in air from the water through its gills. A whale has lungs, just as you do, so it must rise to the surface for each breath. The air goes in through a blowhole at the top of its head.

Look at the babies. Most fish lay eggs, and the baby fish hatch out. A mother whale gives birth to a live baby, called a calf. The calf feeds on milk that its mother makes.

Look at the tail. A fish moves its tail from side to side. A whale moves its tail up and down.

Finally, a whale is a mammal, like a dog or a cat, and it is warm blooded. Most fish are cold blooded. These differences set whales apart from fish.

Questions

1. What is one way a whale and a fish are alike?

_____

_____

2. How does a fish take in air?

_____

_____

3. What is a baby whale called?

_____

_____

4. How does a whale move its tail?

_____

_____

5. Why must a whale come up to the surface?

_____

_____

6. What kind of animal is a whale?

_____

_____

Words to know

blowhole: the hole on top of a whale's head used for breathing
calf: a baby whale
mammal: an animal that has hair or fur and feeds its babies milk
surface: the top of the water
gills: body parts that let a fish breathe in water

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Whales and Fish: Alike but Different

Square group

A whale and a fish both make their homes in the sea. Each has a smooth, streamlined body that glides easily through the water, and each is able to swim quickly. At first glance, a whale might even seem to be nothing more than an enormous fish. In truth, however, a whale is not a fish at all.

Consider how each animal breathes. A fish absorbs air that is mixed into the water by using its gills. A whale, on the other hand, has lungs just as you do, so it must rise to the surface to breathe air, which it takes in through a blowhole on top of its head.

Consider their babies. Most fish lay eggs, and the young fish hatch out of them. A mother whale gives birth to a live baby called a calf, and the calf drinks milk from its mother.

Consider the tail. A fish moves its tail from side to side, but a whale moves its tail up and down.

Finally, a whale is a mammal, like a dog or a cat, and it is warm blooded, while most fish are cold blooded. These differences explain why a whale does not belong with the fish.

Questions

1. What is one way in which a whale and a fish are alike?

_____

_____

2. What does a fish use to take in air from the water?

_____

_____

3. What name is given to a baby whale?

_____

_____

4. In which direction does a whale move its tail?

_____

_____

5. Why does a whale have to rise to the surface?

_____

_____

6. To which group of animals does a whale belong?

_____

_____

Words to know

blowhole: the hole on top of a whale's head used for breathing
calf: a baby whale
mammal: an animal that has hair or fur and feeds its babies milk
surface: the top of the water
gills: body parts that let a fish breathe in water

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Whales and Fish: Alike but Different

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Whales and Fish: Alike but Different

Easier · 138 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.6

1. Both live in the sea, or both swim fast.
2. With its gills.
3. A calf.
4. Up and down.
5. It has lungs and must breathe air.
6. A mammal.

Triangle: Whales and Fish: Alike but Different

This passage · 170 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.5

1. Both live in the sea, or both can swim fast.
2. Through its gills.
3. A calf.
4. Up and down.
5. It has lungs, so it has to breathe air.
6. A mammal.

Square: Whales and Fish: Alike but Different

Harder · 202 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.9

1. Both live in the sea, or both can swim quickly.
2. Its gills.
3. A calf.
4. Up and down.
5. It has lungs, so it must breathe air.
6. Mammals.