



Teacher Resource

# Humpback Whale Comeback

## Focus Questions

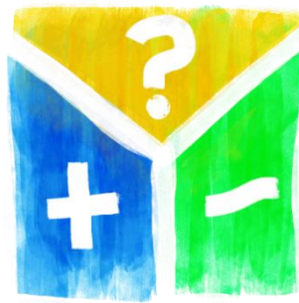
Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. What was the main point of the BTN story?
2. Every year, humpback whales migrate to Australia from where?
3. What impact did whaling have on whale populations?
4. The Australian government has taken humpback whales off what list?
5. What threats do humpback whales still face?

## Activity: Note taking

Students will practise their note-taking skills while watching the BTN Humpback Whale Comeback story. After watching the story, ask students to reflect on and organise the information into three categories. What information in the story was...?

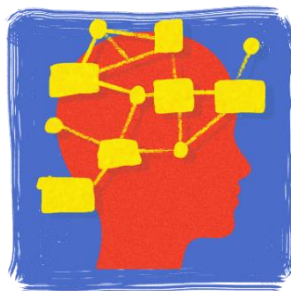
- Positive
- Negative or
- Interesting



## Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN story as a class. Create a class mind map with WHALES in the middle. Ask students to record what they know about whales. What questions do they have? In small groups, ask students to brainstorm responses to the following questions:

- What do you know about whales?
- Why is it important to protect the species?
- What is the conservation status of humpback whales now?
- Why do some conservationists believe that humpback whales are still in danger?
- What has happened to whale populations over the years?



### EPISODE 6

8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

#### KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about the humpback whale and the impact whaling had on the species.

#### CURRICULUM

##### Science – Year 4

Living things depend on each other and the environment to survive.

Science knowledge helps people to understand the effect of their actions.

##### Science – Year 5

Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment.

##### Science – Year 5 & 6

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions.

##### Science – Year 6

The growth and survival of living things are affected by physical conditions of their environment.

##### Science – Year 7

Classification helps organise the diverse group of organisms.

Scientific knowledge has changed peoples' understanding of the world and is refined as new evidence becomes available.

Interactions between organisms, including the effects of human activities can be represented by food chains and food webs.

## Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Humpback Whale Comeback story. Here are some words to get them started.

|         |          |              |
|---------|----------|--------------|
| MIGRATE | BALEEN   | WHALING      |
| SPECIES | CETACEAN | CONSERVATION |

## Activity: Whale Research

The KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on the topic of whales and consider what they would like to know and learn.

| What do I <u>k</u> now? | What do I <u>w</u> ant to know? | What have I <u>l</u> earnt? | <u>H</u> ow will I find out? |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
|                         |                                 |                             |                              |

### Questions to research

Students will develop their own question/s to research about whales. Students will collect and record information from a wide variety of sources. Students may develop their own question for inquiry or select one of the questions below.

- What are some unique features of whales?
- What are the different species of whales found in Australian waters?
- Why do whales migrate? Where can they be seen throughout the year?
- How do whales communicate with each other?
- How did Aboriginal people use whales differently to European settlers?
- How have people around the world used whales in the past? How is this different today? Why do you think it changed?
- When and why did whaling in Australia start to decline?
- Do you think that people's attitudes to whaling have changed over the years? Why?
- What is causing species loss? Explore issues such as habitat loss, introduced species, pollution, population growth and overharvesting/hunting.
- What happens when an animal becomes extinct? If one species in the food chain becomes extinct, how would it affect the rest of the chain?

## Activity –Visual Literacy

Below is a collection of photographs and artworks of whaling in Australia. Look at the image and then respond to the following questions:

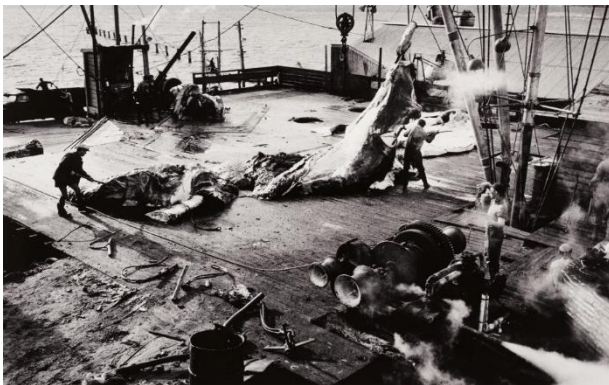
- What is happening in the image? Describe what you can see.
- When do you think the image was created? Why?
- If there are people in the image, who do you think they are? How do you think they might be feeling?
- What question/s would you like to ask the people in the image?
- What does the image tell you about whaling?
- How does the image make you feel?
- Create a caption for the image



[Link to image](#)



[Link to image](#)



[Link to image](#)



[Link to image](#)

## Activity: Whale Profile

Students will explore in depth a species of whale and create a profile about them. Below are some examples.

- Humpback whale
- Southern Right whale
- Blue whale
- Minke whale
- Killer whale



*Humpback whale*

Students will research the following and then share their research findings with the class or create a display in the classroom. Students can use the Animal Profile at the end of this activity.

- Illustration or photo
- Name (common and scientific name)
- Appearance
- Adaptations
- Habitat
- Threats
- Unique features
- Conservation status

### Further Investigation

Students can choose a species of animal that has been taken off Australia's Threatened Species List and investigate why the animal was threatened and what was done to protect it.

## Useful Websites

- [Humpback whales no longer listed as endangered after major recovery](#) – ABC News
- [Humpback Whale](#) – Australian Museum
- [Why do Whales Sing?](#) TedEd
- [Humpback Whaling](#) – BTN
- [Start of Whaling](#) – National Museum Australia

# ANIMAL PROFILE

Scientific  
Name

APPEARANCE

Common Name

ADAPTATIONS

Unique Features  
or Interesting Facts

HABITAT

THREATS