

FACT FILE

Blue whale



PHOTO BY ANDREW SUTTON ECO2/NICEIMAGES

- The head of a blue whale is about quarter of the size of its body length.
- The tongue of a blue whale weighs as much as an elephant and is so big a whole football team could stand on it.
- The oldest known blue whale was around 110 years old; 80 or 90 years old is thought to be more normal.

- A newborn blue whale weighs about the same as an adult hippopotamus.
- Most blue whales migrate to cold waters to find food (they feed on krill using their baleen) and to warmer waters to breed.
- During their four-month migration, they eat very little, surviving mostly on reserves of blubber.



- Blue whales can grow to over 30 metres in length, which is over twice as long as a t-rex – and makes them the largest animal species on Earth!

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- They have loud, deep voices and can communicate with other whales hundreds of miles away.
- The major blood vessel of a blue whale's heart is so big that a baby could crawl through it.
- Although hunting these whales has been banned for a long time, they are still an endangered species.