

The Right Whale



Whales are **marine mammals**.

Marine means of or from the sea.

Mammals are warm-blooded (or endothermic) animals with hair or fur. Mammal mothers produce milk for their babies.

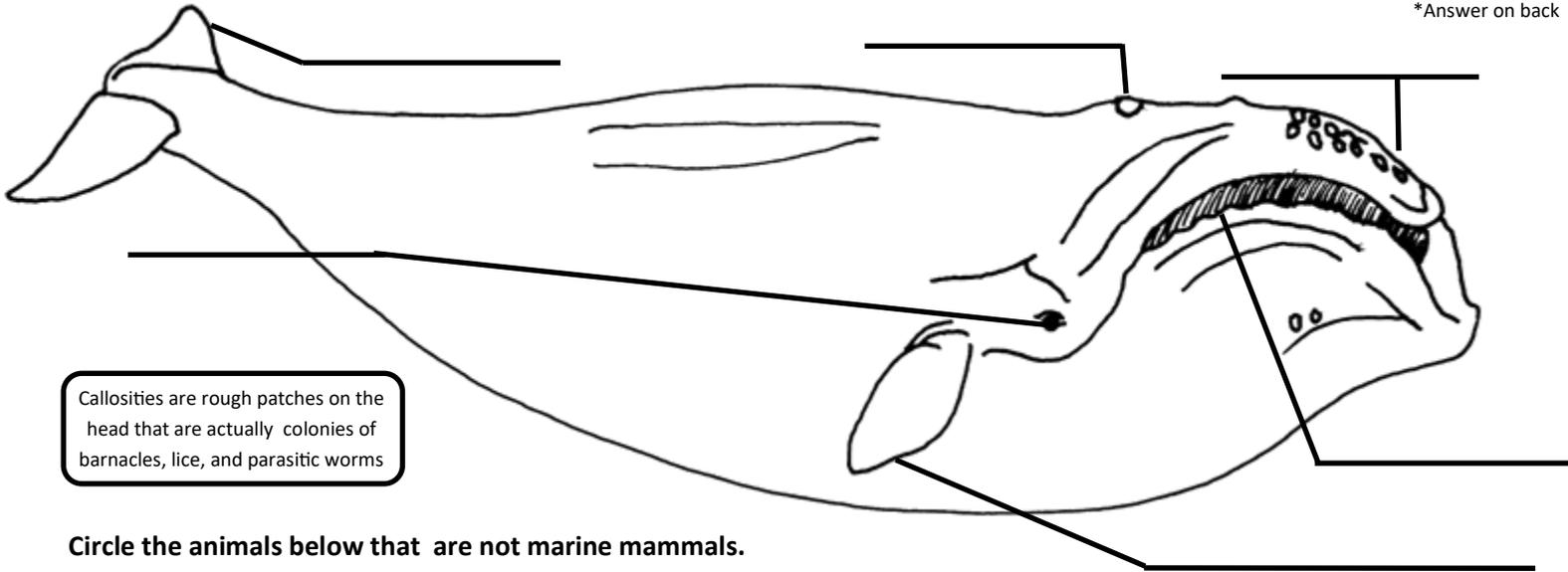
Can you label the body parts of the Right Whale?

- Flippers
- Fluke
- Blowhole
- Callosities
- Baleen
- Eye



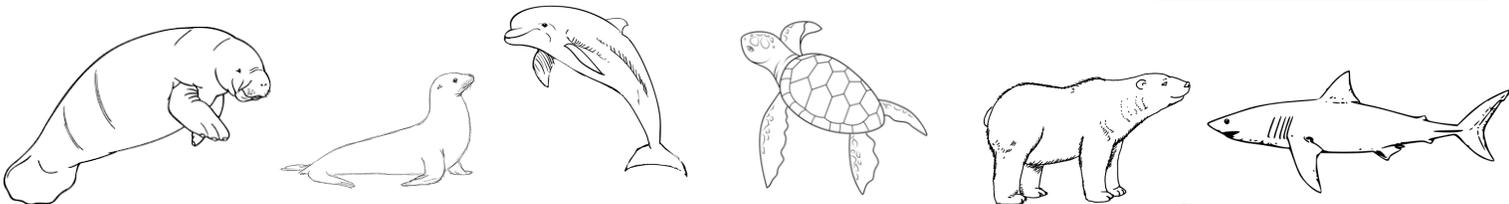
Why do whales have blowholes?

*Answer on back



Callosities are rough patches on the head that are actually colonies of barnacles, lice, and parasitic worms

Circle the animals below that are not marine mammals.

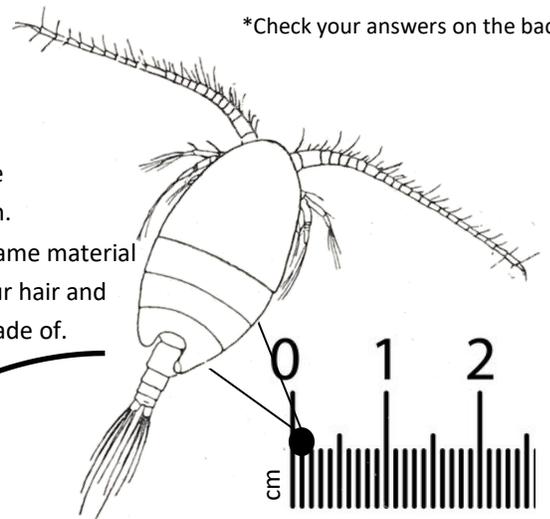
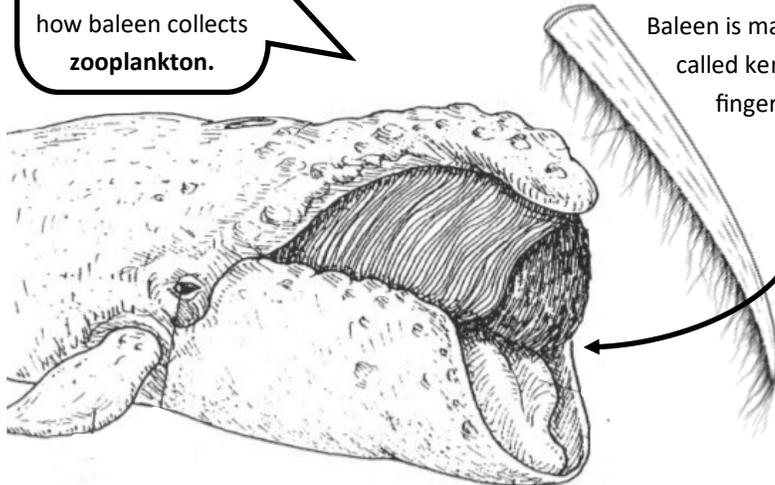


Try shaking pepper into a bowl of water and skimming a fine toothed comb through it to mimic how baleen collects zooplankton.

Right Whales are **baleen** whales. They swim with their mouths open, collecting large amounts of water and microscopic zooplankton like **copepods**. When they close their mouths and squeeze out all of the excess water, the tiny planktonic animals are caught on the "hairy" back side of the baleen.

Baleen is made of the same material called keratin that our hair and fingernails are made of.

*Check your answers on the back.



If Copepods measure 2 millimeters in length and there are 10 millimeters in a centimeter, how many copepods could fit into a centimeter? **Color two boxes (side by side) the same color. Then color the next two boxes a different color.**

How many colors do you use?

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

1 cm (enlarged for activity)

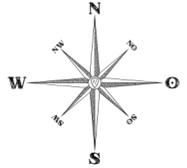
Right Whales

R	E	N	T	A	N	G	L	E	M	E	N	T	N
F	O	I	S	P	N	N	C	A	E	T	H	I	O
I	I	C	A	L	L	O	S	I	T	I	E	S	R
L	M	T	E	S	R	E	P	P	I	L	F	E	T
T	F	T	E	A	F	T	C	O	I	C	E	M	H
E	L	L	T	L	I	L	L	T	O	K	A	I	A
R	N	C	B	G	S	L	R	P	U	N	H	G	T
F	T	E	L	F	E	O	E	L	N	B	I	R	L
E	O	B	E	A	W	P	F	P	C	E	S	A	A
E	L	O	H	W	O	L	B	L	A	L	I	T	N
D	F	T	R	D	I	T	C	I	L	O	A	E	T
L	F	P	T	E	L	L	F	T	F	G	L	M	I
H	H	F	N	E	E	L	A	B	I	T	M	I	C
E	N	S	B	L	D	M	E	I	F	F	T	O	N

- FLIPPERS
- FLUKE
- CALLOSITIES
- BALEEN
- BLOWHOLE
- NORTH ATLANTIC
- CALF
- MIGRATE
- COPEPOD
- FILTER FEED
- ENTANGLEMENT

Baby whales and baby cows are called the same thing. Underline the right word in the list on the left.

?

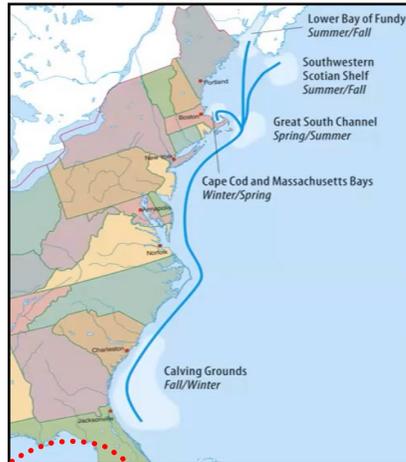


North Atlantic Right whales make long migrations along the east coast of the United States every year. They feed in northern colder water in the summer and into the fall. Then they begin migrating south to warmer water near Georgia and Florida during the winter where females may give birth to a calf.

In the waters where they feed, the whales may encounter large ships which endanger the safety of the whales and their calves.

Other dangers include fishing gear with floating buoys that the whales become snagged and entangled in.

85% of all Northern Atlantic Right Whales have been entangled at least once.



Critically Endangered:

There are only **400** individual Right Whales left in the North Atlantic population. Only 1/4 of them are breeding females.

Color in 1/4 of the squares below.

How many breeding females remain? _____

 100	 100
 100	 100

Sea turtles & sharks are not marine mammals, but they need our help just as right whales do. Learn more about them on our YouTube Channel.

Even though whales spend their entire lives in the ocean, they breathe air with lungs like you do. A blowhole on the top of their heads allows them to breathe at the surface of the water.

When whales exhale, the water vapor may form a visible spout. Whale species may be identified by the shape of their spouts. Some whales, like right whales have two holes for breathing.

They create a V-shaped spout.



Color your own right whale spout above.

Enjoy a video presentation about whales on our YouTube Channel
<https://www.youtube.com/user/NCAquariumFortFisher>