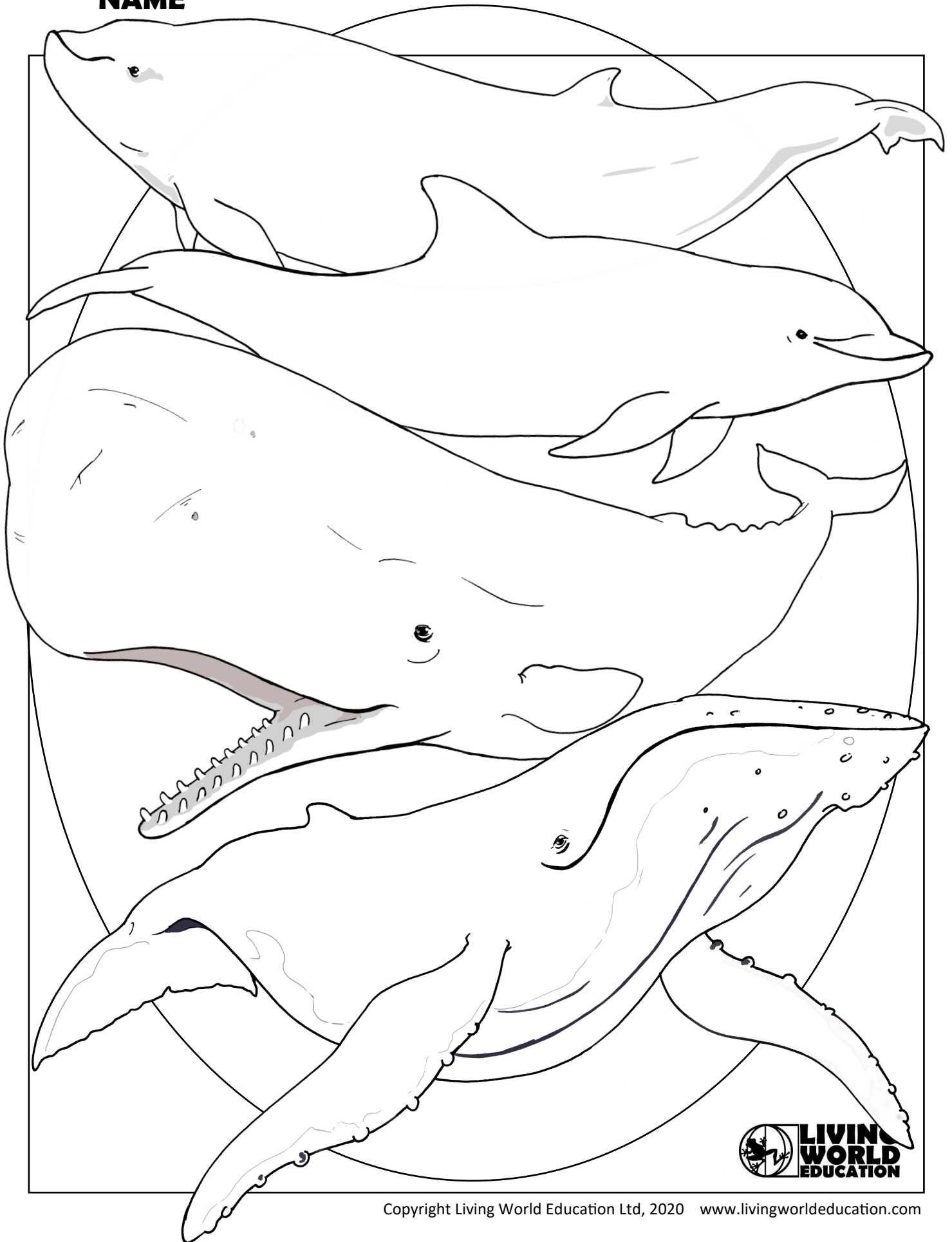


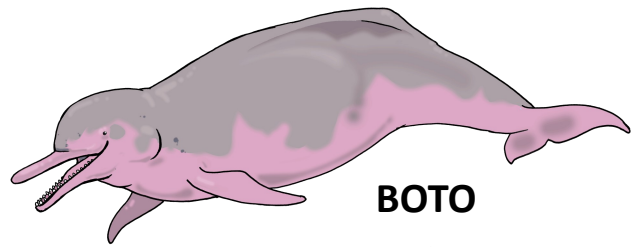
WHALES & DOLPHINS

NAME _____



FOCUS ON DOLPHINS

There are many types of dolphin, some are found in the ocean, whilst some, like the pink-skinned **boto**, find a home in freshwater rivers.



The dolphins are members of the **cetaceans** (whale and dolphin family) and can be both highly intelligent and sociable. Males are called bulls and females are cows. Their young are known as calves and like all mammals, they feed on milk from their mothers. As the young dolphins need to breathe air, once born they are helped to the surface by their mother who they remain close to for years.

The group of dolphins also vary greatly in size from the small **Hector's dolphin** to the enormous **orca**.

These aquatic animals can swim very fast with their powerful tails beating up and down and are capable of leaping high beyond the surface.



What sort of animals are cetaceans?

Where would you find a boto?

How do dolphin mothers help their young?

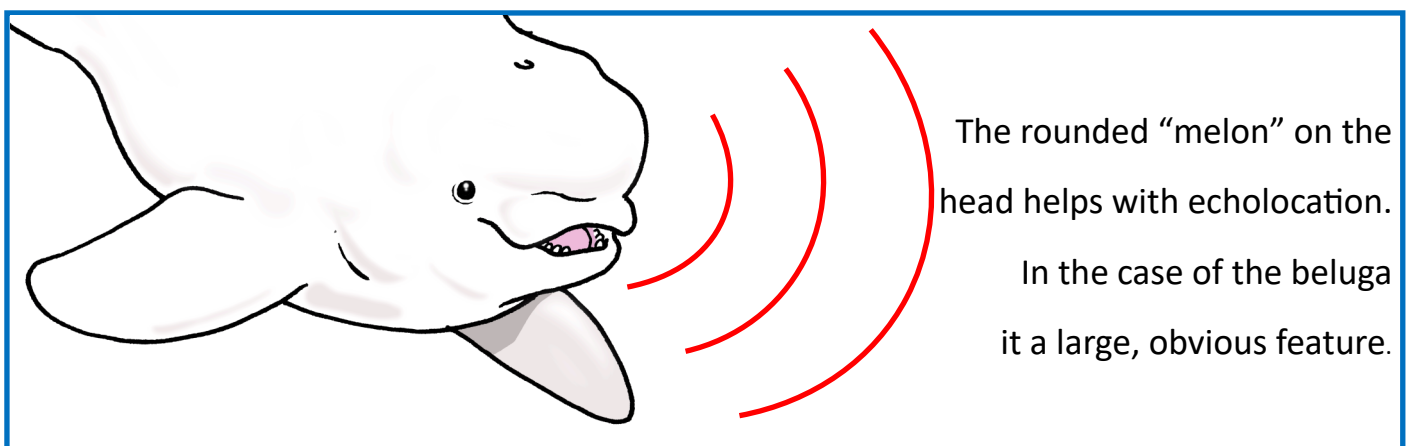
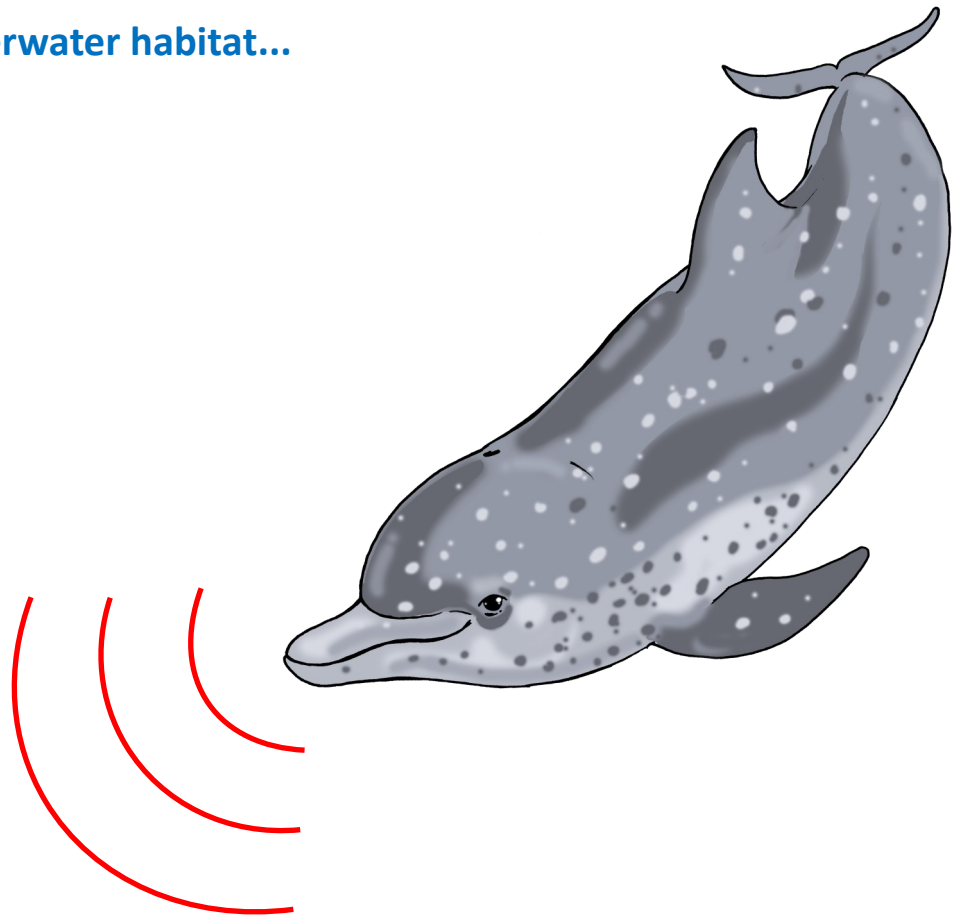
ADAPTATIONS: ECHOLOCATION

Whales use a remarkable sense to locate prey and gain information about the world around them. They make whistles and clicking noises which bounce off objects in the water. This is an echo. By listening to the reflected soundwaves, they can build up a picture of their surroundings.

TASKS:

a, Look online for a video clip of scientists listening to whale song.

B, Draw what this spotted dolphin has located with echolocation. Include some details the underwater habitat...



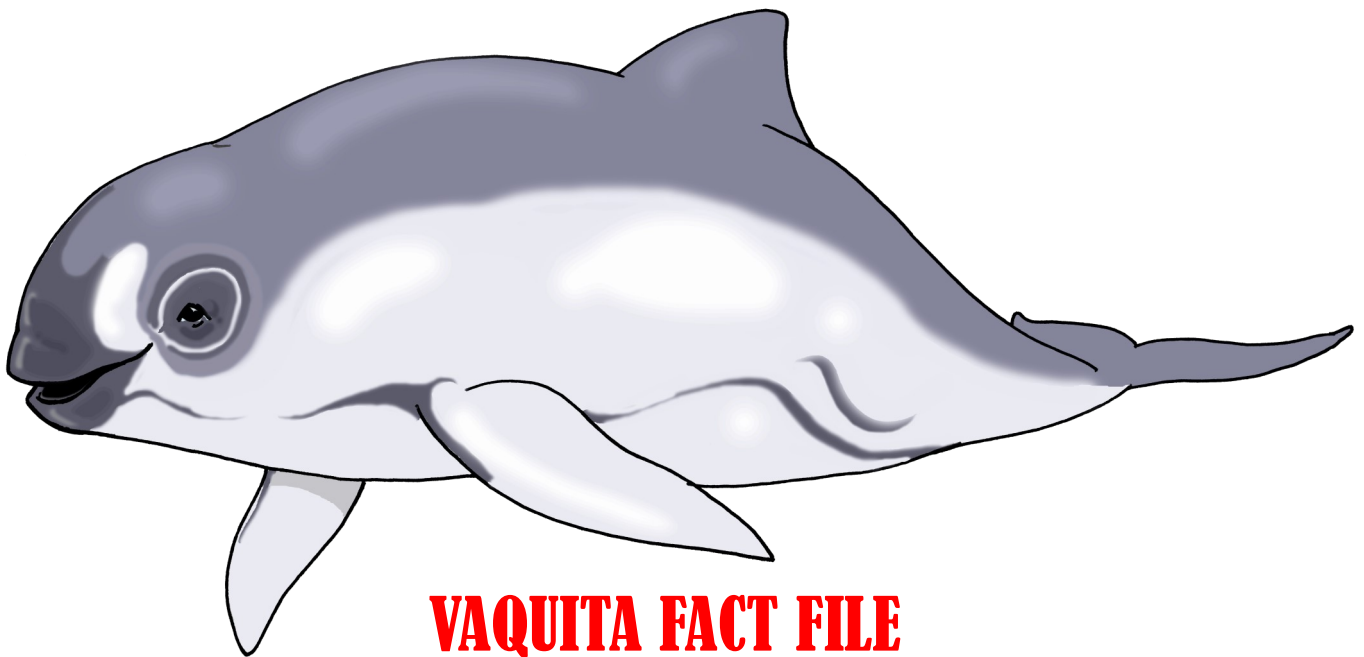
CONSERVATION: VAQUITA

One of the worlds most endangered animals is a small porpoise, the **vaquita**.

There may only be a handful of these marine mammals remaining as they have been victims of illegal fishing activity. Fisherman may use huge nets to trap fish, but these often catch and kill many other species that are not wanted. **This called bycatch.**

They live in Mexican waters in an area called the Gulf of California. Conservationists fear that without action to stop gillnets being used, these animals could soon become **extinct.**

TASK: Design a poster to help people understand the need to ban gillnets. Some key words are highlighted in the text above.



VAQUITA FACT FILE

SIZE—1.5m long

WEIGHT—55kg

DISTRIBUTION—Gulf of California, Mexico

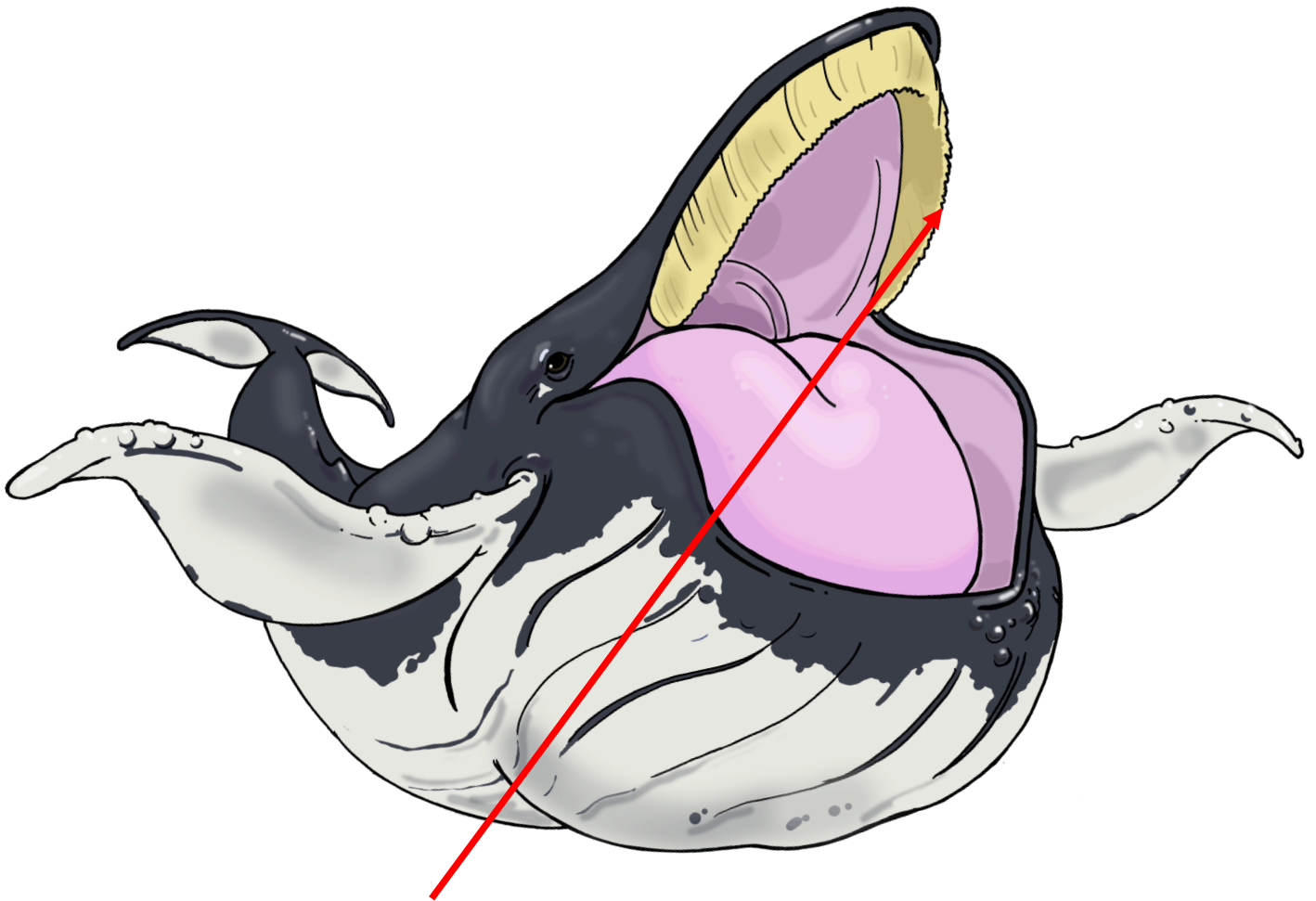
DIET— Fish, Squid, Octopus

STATUS—Critically endangered

ADAPTATIONS: FILTER FEEDING

TASK: Use **ICT skills** to see video clips of how **humpback whales** use **bubble netting** to catch huge numbers of their tiny prey such as small fish or krill.

Can you then add a shoal of fish or krill surrounded by a bubble net, just as it is going to be swallowed by our humpback in the space below?



EXPLAIN HOW THE **BALEEN HELPS CAPTURE THE PREY...**

FACT FINDING: RESEARCH

TASK: Use books or a safe internet search for answers to the

Which is the biggest toothed whale?

How big is a blue whale?

Where are bowhead whales found and how long do they live?

Why does a narwhal have a long tusk?

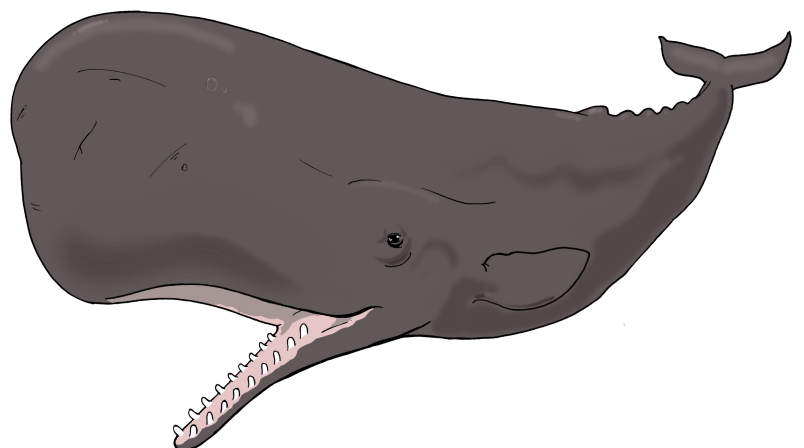
How deep can a sperm whale dive?

Which whale is the fastest species?

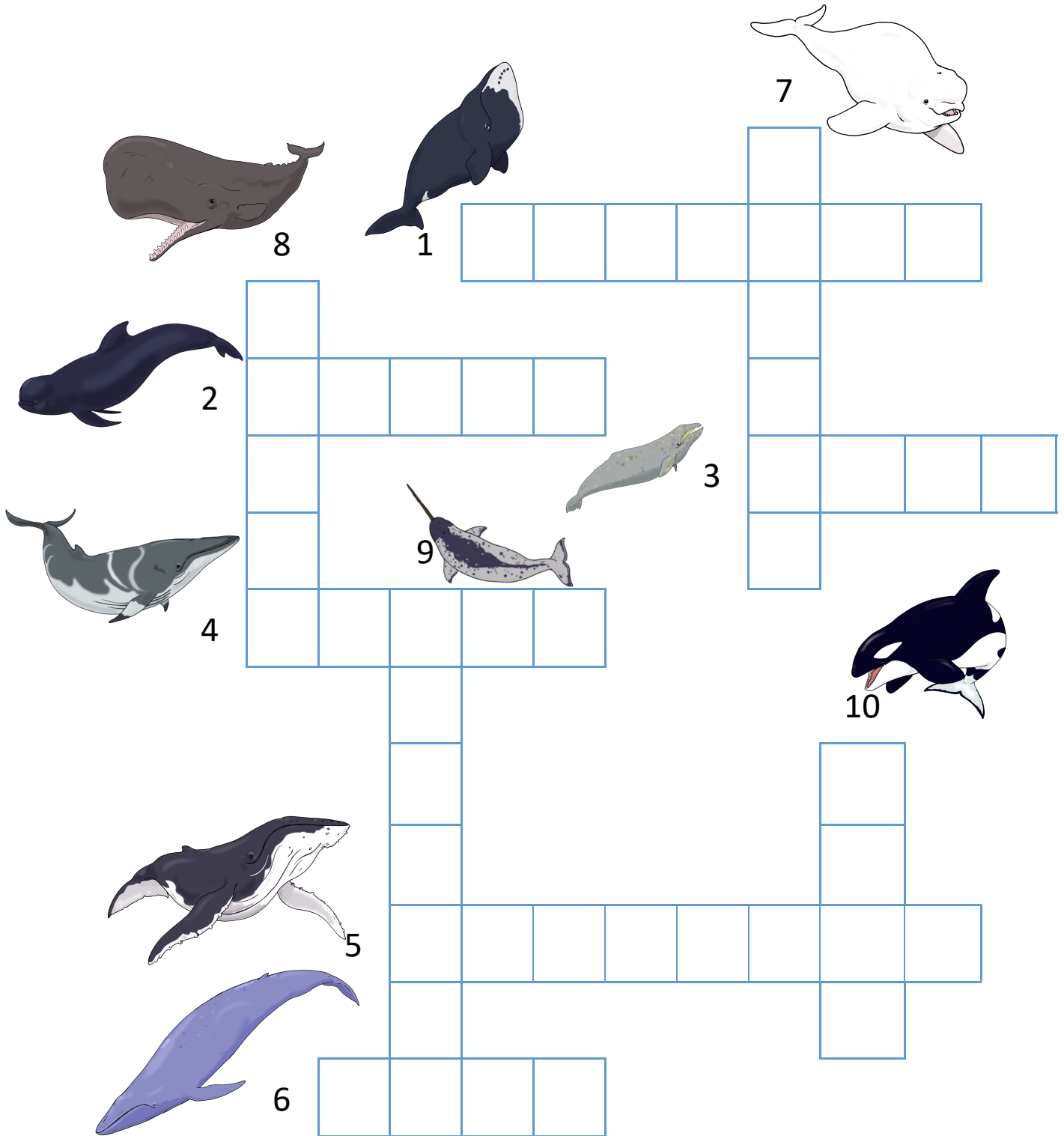
Why are beluga called the canaries of the sea?

EXTENSION TASK:

Search for a range of images and facts about whales and dolphins to create an illustrated fact sheet or poster.



WHALE SPECIES CROSSWORD



The crossword puzzle grid is composed of blue-outlined squares. The numbers 1 through 10 are placed at the start of the words. Illustrations of various whale species are provided for reference: 1. A large, dark whale with a white patch on its belly; 2. A dark whale with a curved back; 3. A small, grey whale with a yellowish patch; 4. A grey whale with white markings; 5. A large whale with a white belly and dark back; 6. A large, blue whale; 7. A white whale; 8. A large, dark whale with a wide mouth; 9. A whale with a long, single horn; 10. A black and white whale.

ACROSS

- 1, A long-lived arctic whale
- 2, Can these whales fly planes?
- 3, A colourfully named whale
- 4, A small baleen whale
- 5, This whale has a bumpy topside
- 6, No animal is bigger!

DOWN

- 7, A white arctic species
- 8, The biggest toothed whale
- 9, Known as the unicorn of the sea
- 10, Also called "killer" whale

TASK: WHALE & DOLPHIN MOBILE

Print and stick to stiff card (like an old cereal box) then add the other side.

Tie the creature through the hole marked on each one with cotton.

Hang each one to a frame, coat hanger or ceiling (with adult help) to create a peaceful,

