

What do whales eat?

Whales are divided into two groups, the toothed whales or odontocetes and the baleen whales or mysticetes.

Whales with teeth (the Odontoceti)

The toothed whales include dolphins, porpoises, beluga, Sperm Whale and beaked whales.

In the *Marine Life* exhibition, look for the whale skull.



Sperm Whale skeleton; Photographer Rodney Start.

A Sperm Whale has conical teeth, located only in the _____ .
These teeth fit into sockets in the roof of the whale's mouth.

How does a Sperm whale catch its food? What does it eat?

Whales without teeth (the Mysticeti)

Baleen whale species include the Gray Whale, Right Whales, minke, the Blue Whale and Humpback Whales. They have **baleen** instead of teeth and are generally larger than toothed whales.

Look at the Blue Whale skeleton in the entrance hall.



Blue Whale exhibit; Photographer Rodney Start.

This whale died young, only 18.7 metres long.
What length could an adult Blue Whale grow to? _____ metres.

These whales have baleen plates attached to their upper jaws.
How do they catch food? What do they eat?

Hide and seek in the ocean

The water near the ocean surface is clear and transparent in the daytime, and there is nowhere to hide from predators. As you go deeper, the sunlight is lost and animals use different ways to catch food and stay alive.

On the wall in the exhibition, find the 'Jelly zone' display.

How do animals that live in the top 200 metres of the open ocean avoid being eaten?

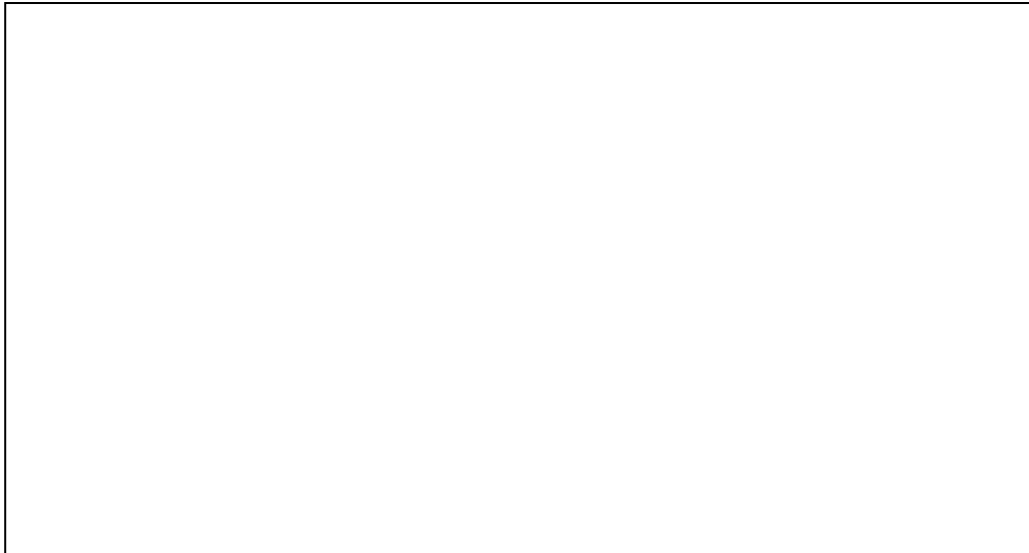
Some *carry a big sting*, for example: _____.

Some *try to be invisible*, for example: _____.

and others

Go into deeper water to find 'Toothy terrors' and 'Deep Freaks'.

Draw and label your favourite creature from the deep dark ocean.



How does it catch its prey? OR How does it avoid being eaten?

The deep Sea Floor and Sea Mounts

Which fish can tie a knot in its body? Why does it do this?

The *Orange Roughy* is a favourite in fish restaurants. Why do Australian scientists ban trawling for this deep sea fish?

Mealtime!

Find the display of shark jaws.

What is the name of the shark with the smallest jaws? _____

Name a shark that has crushing plates instead of teeth. _____



Photographer Benjamin Healley.

Who owns teeth like these?

Superheroes of the Sea

Many sea creatures use 'super powers' to avoid being eaten by predators.

Name two animals that use spines to protect themselves.

Name two sea creatures that use poison—to kill their prey or to protect themselves.

Which fish swims very fast to escape from its predators?



Illustration: Mark Norman

Watch the video and try to find the creatures that use camouflage to hide.
Name two creatures that use camouflage to avoid being seen their prey.

What's special about Victorian seas?

The place where groups of different animals and plants live, feed, shelter breed and die is called a 'habitat'. Five marine habitats are featured in this section: Sponge gardens, Sea grass meadows, Sand plains, Rocky reefs and Open ocean.

Choose one of the habitats displayed.

Name three animals or plants found in this habitat.

Draw and describe some of the characteristics of this habitat.
