

Lesson ideas for geography teachers to share: Blue whale

Go to

The Natural History Museum <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/bluewhale/>

Activity

1. Explore **The Ocean in 1891**, The Era of Whaling. How many whales were killed in the first half of the twentieth century?
2. Who has banned hunting whales? And who flouts the ban?
3. Open The Feeding Event. After lunging forward, opening its mouth and capturing krill how does a whale not swallow seawater (whilst keeping the crustaceans in its mouth)?
4. Go to Gender. Who is bigger: male or female whales?
5. The Mythology and Mystery. What did humans accomplish *before* they managed to film a free-swimming whale underwater?
6. Access Record Breaker. How many calories can a whale take from a single mouthful of krill?
7. How heavy is a Blue whale?
8. Why did the whale (in the foyer of the Natural History Museum) beach?
9. Explore **Hintze Hall** and open Why the whale. Why is the skeleton so important?
10. Open What's Left to Learn? What *is* left to learn about whales?
11. Open Pose. Why is the skeleton suspended at such an angle?
12. A Symbol of Hope. In 1960, after decades of hunting, how many Blue whales were left?

Suggested further work

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/galleries-and-museum-map/hintze-hall.html>

Scroll down to the bottom of this webpage. Sir David Attenborough will guide you through 24 different cabinets, from seaweed and coral to giraffes and predators.

<https://bit.ly/nhmtour> access the Google Arts & Culture tour for the Natural History Museum you will see 17 tiles along the bottom of your screen. These are starting points to jump to different parts of the museum tour. Explore the galleries and enjoy wandering through the exhibits.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-51553381> Antarctica's waters have seen an 'astonishing' rebound of Blue whales since hunting was banned, signalling a conservation triumph.