

OCEAN VOICES



*Welcome to the first ever edition of **Wildtrack Magazine**, a brand new magazine about wildlife especially for young people. We know that young people take a keen interest in the natural world – this magazine offers you a new way of finding out more about some of the amazing plants and animals with which we share this planet.*

FROM THE EDITOR OF WILDTRACK MAGAZINE

Each issue will take an in-depth look at a different kind of creature. You'll find out just how our behaviour can affect the lives of other living creatures, and what we think should be done to protect them. It's our view that the more we can find out about creatures in their natural habitats, the more we can learn how to help them to survive in the wild.



We'll bring you information, reports, maps, stories, photographs . . . just about anything which reminds us how wonderful the world of nature is.

In future editions you'll be able to learn more about the feeding habits of the fruit bat, and also explore the mysterious underground world of the earthworm.

For this first edition, called *Ocean Voices*, we're featuring one of the largest and most extraordinary creatures on the planet – the whale. We've collected some fascinating and at times surprising information. Did you know, for example, that although whales live in the water, they are not fish? And some of the biggest types, like blue whales, grey whales and humpback whales, don't even have teeth.

If you're lucky enough to see a whale in the ocean it can be an unforgettable experience. Read Lucy Carter's account of her trip and you'll have a new ambition in life.

We haven't forgotten that these amazing mammals are in need of protection, if they are to survive in the wild. Our survival guide gives details of why many types of whale are endangered, and what is being done to help them.

Prepare to be amazed as you join us on *Wildtrack Magazine's* own whale watching journey – starting now!

Joe Deene
Editor



2

Circle the correct option to complete each sentence below.

1. This edition of *Wildtrack Magazine* is called

- On the Whale Trail** **Ocean Voices** **From the Editor** **Whales in Danger**

1 mark

2. The editor says that a future edition of *Wildtrack Magazine* will be about

- whales** **foxes** **earthworms** **oceans** .

1 mark

3. *Wildtrack Magazine* is a magazine especially for

- adults** **nature experts** **young people** **teachers** .

1 mark

3

Wildtrack Magazine has not been published before.

Find and **copy** a phrase which tells you this.

1 mark

4

Which of these statements best represents the editor's views?

Tick **one**.

People are more interesting than animals.

People are doing nothing to help whales.

All wildlife is extraordinary and fascinating.

Wildlife is only really interesting if you see it for yourself.

1 mark

5

What does the first paragraph on page 3 tell you?

Tick **one**.

what will be in the next edition.

where you can see whales.

all about whale watching.

some facts about whales.

1 mark

Imagine that an endangered whale could write a letter. What would the whale say? Young writer Louise Plater asked herself just this question. She imagined that she was a blue whale, and wrote this letter.



Joe Deene
Editor

Dear Humans,



I am a blue whale and I live in the Pacific Ocean. I am writing this letter to ask for peace in the world's oceans on behalf of the creatures of the sea. For years we have lived among the tall sea plants that grow up from the sea bed. We have swum among the gentle waves as they lap against each rock.

You turn a peaceful sea into an angry sea. Now, the waves boil and swell in huge currents. As you dump piles of smelly oil into our clear water it becomes murky. Oil wraps itself cruelly in a coat around so many sea birds and fish. Oil sticks to their feathers and clings to their eyes and mouths.

It has poisoned them. It killed them. You killed them. You kill us whales too. You hunt us in big ships. You follow us. When you have us trapped between ships, you drop a net down. We are victims of you, just like the birds and fish are victims of oil. The sight of a net coming towards us fills us with alarm. Sheer panic overcomes us. We see no way out. The strong wires in the net press tightly against our bodies.

I have not experienced this myself. Luckily I am still alive and able to write this letter to you. Many of my friends, however, and family, have not been so fortunate. It is as much for them as for anyone else that I am asking you to stop doing this. You are driving us to extinction. Please, give us peace.

Yours beseechingly,

Blue Whale

7

At the beginning of the letter, what reason does the writer give for writing?

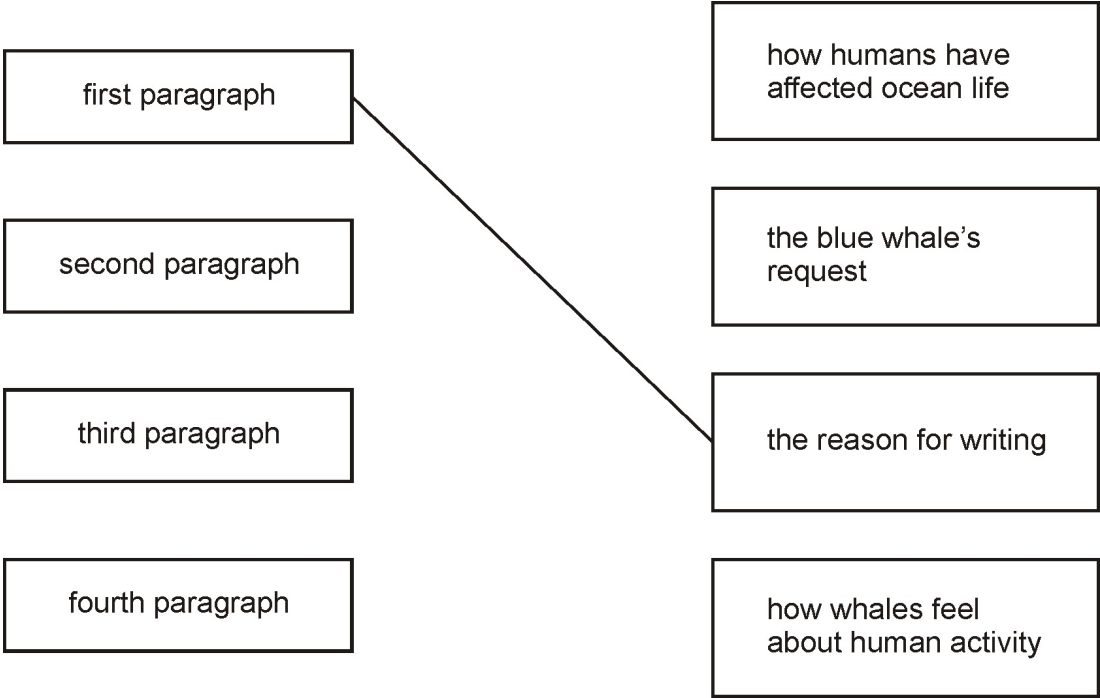
1 mark

8

Here is a summary of the ideas in the letter.

Draw lines to match the paragraphs to the main ideas.

One has been done for you.



2 marks

9

(a) What impression of the sea does the first paragraph of the letter give you?

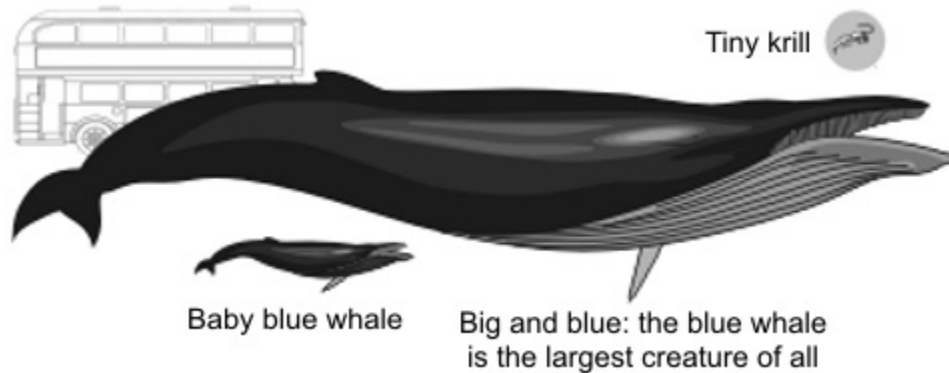
1 mark

(b) In what ways is the second paragraph different?

2 marks

THE BLUE WHALE – MAKING A BIG SPLASH

The most amazing fact about the blue whale is that it is the largest creature that has ever lived on Earth. This means that it is even bigger than any of the dinosaurs. By the time it becomes a teenager, it is about 30 metres long and weighs more than 30 elephants.



WHY BLUE?

The blue whale is named after its blue-grey skin, which may have white-grey spots. The underbelly may also have brown, yellow or grey specks.

BABY BLUE

Blue whale calves are born tail first, near the surface of warm, shallow waters. At this early stage they are about seven and a half metres long, and are able to swim just 30 minutes after birth. Blue whales live for 35 to 40 years, although it is thought that some survive until they are about 110 years old.

OPEN WIDE

This enormous creature feeds mainly on some of the smallest creatures in the ocean, called krill. Krill look like shrimps and are about the size of a small human finger. In the summer, the blue whale eats several million krill each day. In the winter, it travels to new feeding grounds in the search for krill.



Tiny krill

Inside the blue whale's gigantic mouth, there are no teeth. Instead, hundreds of stringy plates hang down from the upper jaw. They act like a giant sieve, filtering krill and other small creatures from the water. After every mouthful, the whale licks the plates with its giant tongue, swallowing everything that's been trapped there. As the whale gulps in vast amounts of seawater, the loose throat skin expands like a huge balloon. Then, it closes its mouth and pushes out the water with its tongue.

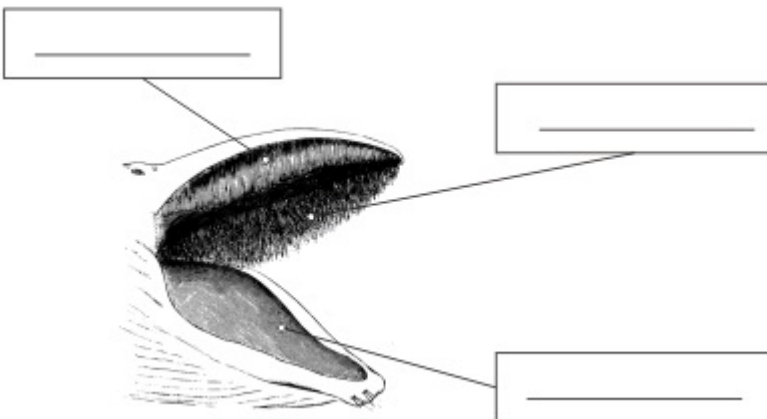
RECORD BREAKERS

As well as being the largest, blue whales are the loudest animals on earth. They repeatedly make whistle-like sounds which can travel for many kilometres under water. The noise they make is much louder than an aeroplane, and so loud that it would be painful for humans to listen to, if they were too close by. These whale sounds are called songs, and may be used for locating large amounts of krill, and for communicating with other blue whales.

11

Look at the information in *Open Wide*.

Using this information, label what is shown in the diagram.



3 marks

12

Use the information to complete this table of facts about the blue whale.

Two sections have been done for you.

Colour	<i>blue / grey</i>
Length at birth	
Length as a teenager	
Usual life span	<i>35 – 40 years</i>
Main food	

3 marks

13

The text compares the sound the blue whale makes to that of an aeroplane.

(a) How does this comparison help you to understand the information?

1 mark

(b) Find another comparison in the writing.

1 mark