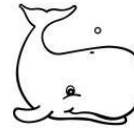


## READING in GEOGRAPHY



### BLUE WHALE

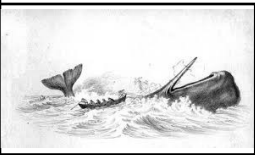


The blue whale is the largest animal to have ever lived. The blue whale may weigh up to 200000kg or 200 tonnes. The blue \_\_\_\_\_ may be the equal in size of 3 large dinosaurs or 30 elephants.

In length, the whale is 30 metres \_\_\_\_\_ and in width, 15 metres at the girth. The tail flukes (tail wings) are 6.5 meters wide.

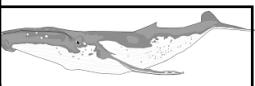


Blue whales are found in all the world's oceans except the Arctic and enclosed seas but their numbers have been seriously reduced. Once blue whales numbered over 300000 on earth and were abundant in all the \_\_\_\_\_. Blue whales were hunted extensively by whalers over the last three centuries and by the 20th Century the blue whale had almost \_\_\_\_\_ exterminated.



Historically, blue whales were somewhat protected by the perilous nature of whale hunting. However, despite the dangers and seamen spending many years at sea, by the late 18th and 19th \_\_\_\_\_ whaling adventures had increased significantly.

*Moby Dick* tells the story of this legendary trade. Financial gain and adventure encouraged the trade and whale numbers began to seriously decline. By the 19th and 20th Centuries, blue whale numbers were \_\_\_\_\_ rapidly, mostly due to industrial developments. Factory ships, steam and oil powered ships and the explosive harpoon all enabled more proficient and larger scale killing and slaughtering of whales. The rapid decline in whale numbers continued throughout the 19th Century and well into the 20th Century. In one year alone, 1931, 30000 blue whales were \_\_\_\_\_. Estimates maintain that 300000 blue whales were killed in



the Antarctic region alone in the 20th Century. At the end of the 20th century there were less than 5000 blue whales on \_\_\_\_\_.

World-wide public protest led to the cessation of most blue whale killing. The international community drew up a treaty in 1966. The blue whale is now a protected \_\_\_\_\_. The blue whale retains a global distribution and can still be found in all the world's oceans except the Arctic, albeit with some difficulty. Despite this world wide distribution, blue whales remain one of the rarest of the whales, numbering between 10,000 - 25,000. Except in the eastern Pacific Ocean off the U.S.A., numbers of \_\_\_\_\_ whales have been slow to recover. (Reference: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue\\_Whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Whale))

#### Missing

#### Words

oceans  
declining  
earth  
species  
long  
been  
centuries  
whale  
killed  
blue

1. What is the largest animal to have ever lived? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many dinosaurs equal the weight of a blue whale? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How long is a blue whale? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which is the only ocean without blue whales? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Name a book about whaling. \_\_\_\_\_
6. What sort of harpoon increased whale killing? \_\_\_\_\_
7. In what year were 30000 blue whales killed? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How many blue whales existed at the end of the 20th century? \_\_\_\_\_
9. In what year was a treat drawn up? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Which whale remains one of the rarest of the whales? \_\_\_\_\_