



## How LONG IS A WHALE?

### OVERVIEW

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#### Description

Discover the length of the blue whale, comparing it to the size of the campers' outstretched arms.

#### Learning Outcomes

- Understand how big a whale can be using comparisons
- Marine mammal life history

#### Outline

1. Preparation (5 min)
2. Guessing game (10 min)
3. Discuss (10 min)

#### Materials

Item	Quantity Per Child	Quantity Per Class
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rope (or chalk or pylons)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N/A</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 80-100 feet</li></ul>

### KEY INFORMATION

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**Topic 1: Blue Whales** are the largest known mammals to have ever lived. These marine mammals can grow up to approximately 100 ft long. Their hearts can weigh as much as a vehicle.

**Topic 2:** Marine mammals are all relatively large animals. Whales especially adapted a large body size to deal with their environment. This is because body heat is lost easily while in the water and water temperatures change quickly when diving or migrating. Having a large body makes it easier to store body heat due to a decreased surface area-body ratio.

## **LESSON PLAN & PROCEDURE**

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### **How Long is a Whale**

1. Preparation (if using rope instead of pylons or chalk to indicate size)
  - a. Cut a 100 foot length of rope
2. Guessing game
  - a. Get children to guess how long they think a Blue Whale is
  - b. Instruct the children to form a line and hold hands, stretching out as far as possible
  - c. Ask them if they think this length is as long as a Blue Whale.
  - d. After they've guessed, compare the length of the rope against the line of children.
  - e. Tell the campers the rope is as long as a Blue Whale, comparing it to the length of the campers' line.
  - f. Depending on the length of the camper line, discuss whether they are the same, shorter, or longer than the Blue Whale.

### **Debrief**

- What is the biggest land animal?
  - The elephant which, is a distant relative of the whale
- Were any dinosaurs bigger than a blue whale? No
- Are there any small marine mammals? How do they cope with the cold?