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AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

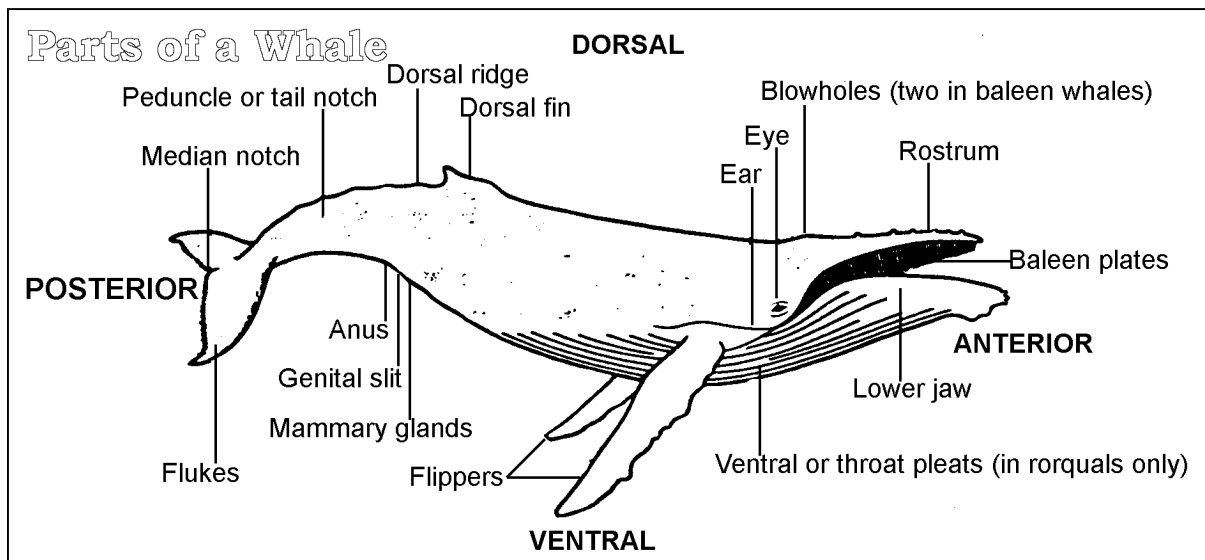
Whale Words

BALEEN - Fibrous plates constructed of keratin, material much like human fingernails, grow from the roof of the mouth of some species of whales; used to filter small food organisms from the water.

BARNACLE - A marine crustacean that attaches itself to rocks, ship bottoms, certain whales, etc.

BEAK - The snout, or forward projecting part of a cetacean's head, used primarily with dolphins and porpoises.

BENTHIC - Pertaining to the sea bottom or to organisms that live on the sea bottom.



BLOW - The visible breath of a whale, consisting of water vapor and droplets.

BLOWHOLE - The breathing mechanism, or nostrils, that have migrated, through evolutionary development, to the top of the head; two blowholes in Mysticeti, one blowhole in Odontoceti.

BOWRIDING - The behavior in dolphins and porpoises involving swimming in the bow wave created by moving boats or sometimes larger whales.

BREACHING - The behavior in cetaceans that involves thrusting most or all of the body out of the water, and landing with a large splash.

BULL - An adult male whale.

CALF - A baby whale.

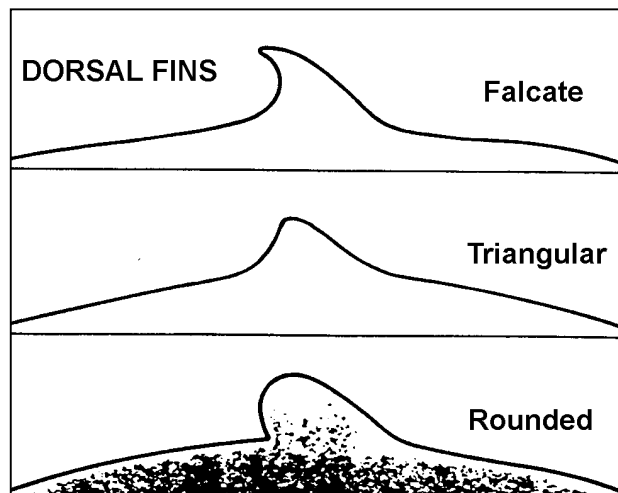
CAUDAL - Of, pertaining to, or near the tail or posterior part of the body.

CETACEAN - A marine mammal of the order Cetacea, which includes whales, dolphins and porpoises.

COW - An adult female whale.

CRUSTACEAN - Of the class Crustacea, breathes through gills, or branchiae, and has a body commonly covered by a hard shell. Includes barnacles, crab, shrimp, lobster, amphipods and copepods.

DOLPHIN - Sometimes used interchangeably with "porpoise," but generally defined as having a defined beak, conical shaped teeth, and a falcate dorsal fin.



DORSAL - Of, toward, on in or near the top.

DORSAL FIN - The top fin in marine vertebrates.

ECHOLOCATION - To orient, navigate or find food by the use of echoes from sounds produced by the cetacean.

FALCATE - Curved and tapering; sickle shaped .

FLIPPERS - The limbs of marine mammals, including cetaceans and pinnipeds.

FLIPPERSLAPPING - The behavior in cetaceans involves raising the pectoral fin out of the water and slapping them on the surface.

FLUKES - The horizontally oriented tail fin of cetaceans; fibrous, with no skeletal support.

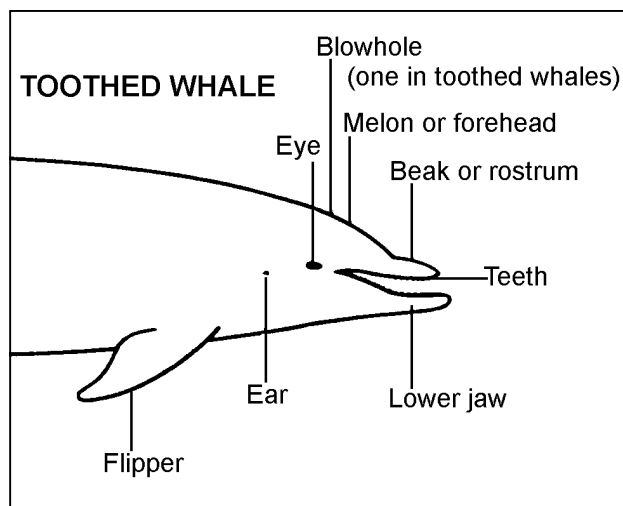
KRILL - Term in general use to describe small, shrimp-like crustaceans eaten by several of the large whales.

LOB-TAILING - The behavior in cetaceans that involves raising the flukes out of the water and slapping them on the surface.

MAMMAL - A vertebrate animal characterized by warmbloodedness, hair, lungs, nursing their young, and giving live birth.

MELON - The bulbous forehead of Odontoceti cetaceans, which contains oil and is thought to be involved in sound protection (for echolocation).

MYSTICETI - The order of baleen whales, from the Greek MYSTAX ("moustache") and CETUS ("whale").



ODONTOCETI - The order of toothed whales from the Greek ODOUS ("tooth") and CETUS ("whale").

PECTORAL FIN - The flippers of cetaceans.

PEDUNCLE - A stalk; in cetaceans, the tail stock between the anus and the fluke.

PELAGIC - Of, pertaining to, or living in the open ocean far from land; oceanic.

PINNIPED - An order of aquatic, carnivorous mammals including sea lions, true seals, and walruses; from the Latin PINNA ("feather") and PEDIS ("foot"), or "featherfoot."

PLANKTON - The marine animal and plant organisms that drift or float with currents, waves, etc. in the upper layers of the sea.

POD - A group of two or more whales.

PORPOISE - Sometimes used interchangeably with "dolphin", but generally defined as having a short beak or no beak at all, spade shaped teeth, and a triangular dorsal fin.

RORQUAL - Any of several baleen whales of the genus Balaenoptera having numerous longitudinal grooves on the lower surface of the body, and a dorsal fin.

ROSTRUM - A beak-like part; in cetaceans the upper jaw, used primarily with larger whales.

SPYHOPPING - The behavior in cetaceans that involves raising the head vertically out of the water, then sinking back into the water without causing much splash.

VENTRAL - Of, pertaining to, or situated on or near the belly or abdomen; on the lower surface of the body.

VENTRAL PLEATS - The longitudinal grooves on the undersurface of certain species of baleen whales.

WHALE LICE - Cyamid crustaceans, generally yellowish white or yellowish orange, that live on certain species of cetaceans.

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