

# OCEAN BLUE CREW

## Newsletter

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## Introduction

Ahoy matey! It is the Ocean Blue Crew from the Clearwater Marine Aquarium here to give you some nautical knowledge about our incredible ocean!

In honor of **WORLD WHALE DAY** (2/16/2019) and National **SKIP THE STRAW DAY** (2/22/2019) we are going to learn about these wonderful whales and one simple way we can help them— skipping single use plastics like straws! Teacher Turtle will teach you about the two different types of whales — baleen and toothed whales. The largest living animal on earth is the blue whale, which is a type of baleen whale. They can grow to 82 feet long and up to 300,00 pounds! Male baleen whales are known for their songs that can be heard up to 10,000 miles away. However, the use of these songs is not entirely understood to researchers. The right whale pictured here is the rarest of all large whales.

Come join the Ocean Blue Crew to learn about whales, an easy way to save them, and upcoming events at the aquarium! Let's dive in and start with Captain Squid Squiddley.

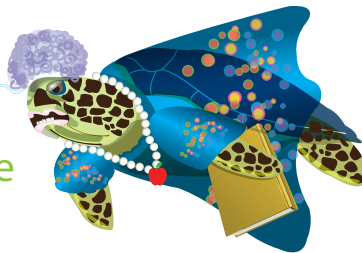


## CaptAln Squid Squiddley

### CAPTAIN'S LOG

Arr me mateys! Me and me crew have sailed the ocean blue and seen many different types o' whales. These animals can be found in waters all over the world. They are able to stay warm in colder waters due to a thick layer of fat called blubber. The species found in warmer waters still have blubber, but not nearly as much as those only found in cold water. Most baleen whales make long migration trips around the world often spending winters in warmer waters and the summers in colder—usually polar—waters. Toothed whales, on the other hand, typically do not migrate.

Arr, **Teacher Turtle** can you tell us more about these different types of whales?



## TeacherTurtle

Aye Aye Captain! How can you tell the difference between baleen and toothed whales? Baleen whales are usually larger, and have mouths full of hair-like baleen. These massive animals feed on some of the smallest organisms on earth—krill. They take big mouthfuls of seawater and filter out the krill so they do not swallow any saltwater. Baleen whales have two blowholes, so it looks like they have a nose on their back.

Toothed whales characteristics include teeth instead of baleen, one blowhole, and they are typically smaller. Two examples of toothed whales are beluga whales and narwhals. Dolphins are also included in toothed whales. These toothed whales can have anywhere between 2 and 240 plus teeth depending on the species. Even with all of these teeth, these whales do not chew their food—they only use their teeth to catch their prey.



## Observation Otter

Teacher Turtle taught us all about the different types of whales, and how they stay warm using their thick layer of fat called blubber! Our experiment will allow us to learn how this blubber works.

### BLUBBER GLOVE

#### YOU WILL NEED:

- 4 sandwich bags
- Vegetable Shortening
- A bowl of ice water large enough to fit your hand into

1. On the inside of one sandwich bag put some vegetable shortening. You will want enough to create a layer around the inside of the bag.
2. Turn two of the sandwich bags inside out.
3. Put one of the inside out bags inside of the bag with your layer of vegetable shortening. Match the zippers up and close them to make a blubber "glove".
4. With the other bag put the last inside out bag into it and zip them together to make your control "glove" with no layer of vegetable shortening.

Put your hand into the blubber glove (vegetable shortening) and submerge it into the bowl of ice water, but make sure not to get water inside the glove. See how long you can keep your hand in the bowl of ice water. Repeat with the control glove.

Can you keep your hand in the water longer with one glove than the other? Why do you think so?



**Chef Shark**

Bonjour mes amis! Now that you have learned about whales, Chef Shark is here to teach you how to make a whale snack.

## WATERMELON WHALE FRUIT BOWL

### YOU WILL NEED:

- A watermelon
- A large knife
- An adult
- Assorted fruit
- Marker
- Spoon/melon baller
- Optional: toothpicks



1. Draw whale tail flukes about  $\frac{1}{2}$  way down the watermelon. About  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the way from the opposite side of the watermelon mark where the head will be.
2. Decide how deep you want the sides of the bowl-part of the watermelon. Have an adult use a sharp knife to cut these parts of the watermelon.
3. Draw or have an adult cut eyes and a mouth on the face of the whale.
4. Use a spoon or melon baller to scoop out the watermelon from the whale shape.
5. Make a fruit salad with the watermelon you removed and other fruit you have. Fill up your whale with the fruit salad.
6. Optional: You can have an adult cut pectoral fins out of the removed rind and use toothpicks to attach them to your whale.



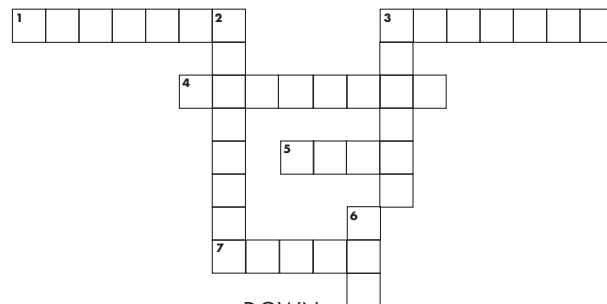
**Deputy Dolphin**

Howdy partners! Deputy Dolphin here to tell you more about how YOU can keep our oceans safe! One of the easiest ways is to use less single use plastics. According to the National Park Service, 500 million straws are used every day in the U.S., which is enough to fill 125 school buses daily. This month we celebrate National Skip the Straw Day. By using less single use plastics, like straws, we can help to make sure fewer plastics accidentally end up in our oceans. Straws take around 200 years to degrade or break down. As they break down, they will turn into smaller pieces called micro plastics that can be the size of a sesame seed. These small pieces of plastic are harmful to animals in the ocean as they often mistake these small pieces for food. You can help by reducing your use, recycling, and reusing or upcycling. Creative Crab has a great upcycling craft for these plastic straws!



## Playtime Pelican

We have learned a lot about whales today. Let's test your knowledge with this whale-themed crossword puzzle!



### ACROSS

1. Beluga whales are a type of \_ whale
3. How a whale stays warm
4. Where a whale breathes
5. Largest species of whale
7. Skip this to help marine animals

### DOWN

2. These are actually a type of toothed whale
3. Hair-like structure to filter krill
6. How many blowholes a baleen whale has

Arr me mateys! I want to let you know about some upcoming events here on dry land at the aquarium! **REPTILEPALOOZA** will be March 9th–10th showcasing rescued reptiles. We also have **TRASH TO TOYS** starting February 18th, and the last day to submit toys is April 12th with judging on **EARTH DAY** (April 22nd). More information on all of these events are on our website (seewinter.com).



**CreativeCrab**

## PLASTIC STRAW BRACELET

### YOU WILL NEED:

- Plastic Straws (upcycle a straw you received at a restaurant)
- Scissors
- Yarn or String

1. Cut the straws into  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch pieces.
2. Cut a long piece of string (12 inches long), fold it in half, and tape the center of the string (where it is folded) to a table.
3. Thread a piece of straw up the left string, then thread the right string through the bottom of the straw piece.
4. Pull this straw as tight to the top as you can.
5. Continue this until the bracelet is long enough for your wrist. Knot the ends of the string together and clip the extra string.

