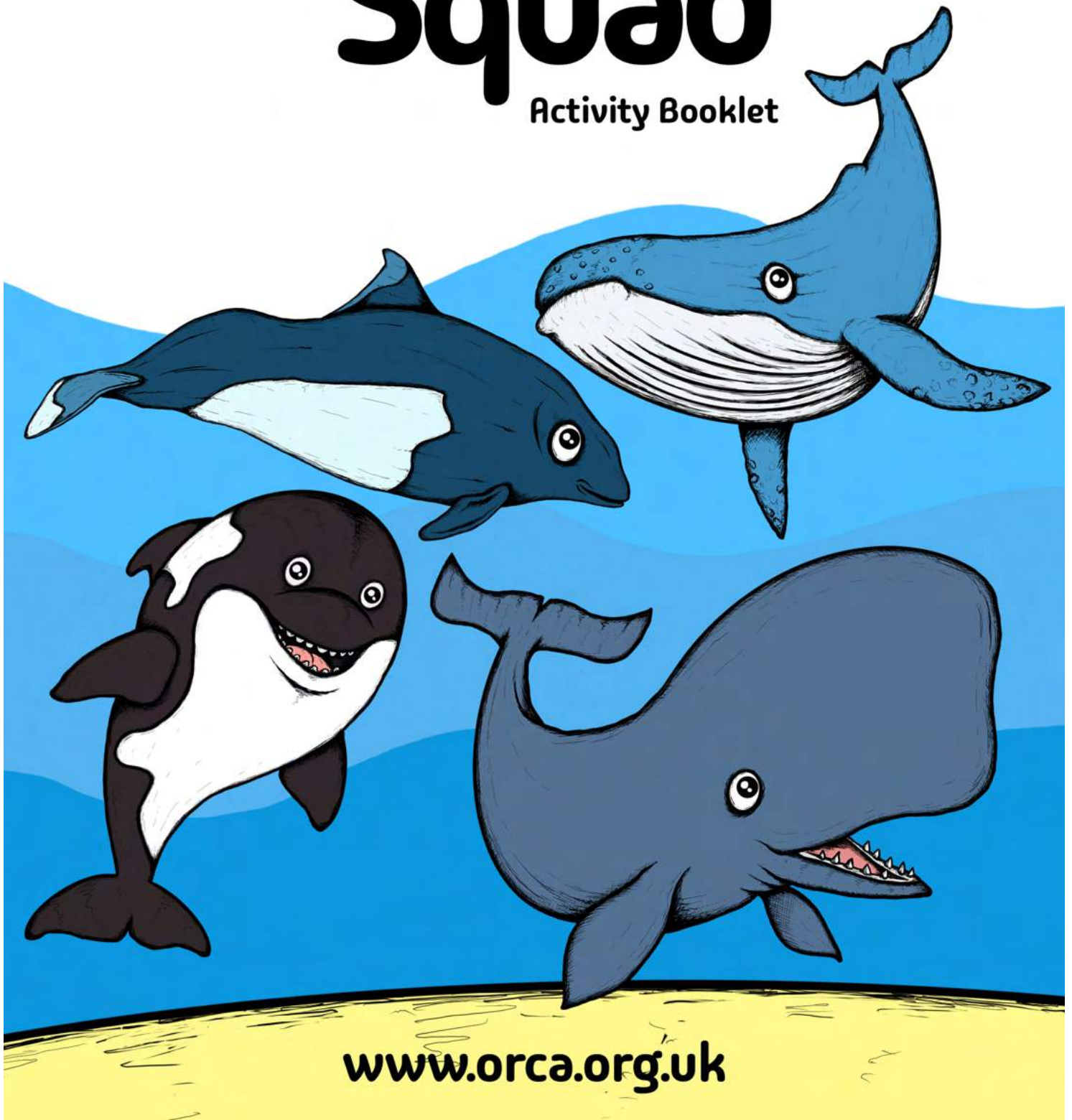




Pod Squad

Activity Booklet



www.orca.org.uk

Contents & Introductions

Welcome to the Pod Squad Activity Book! This booklet is full of fun whale-themed activities that you can complete individually or with your friends, family or classmates.

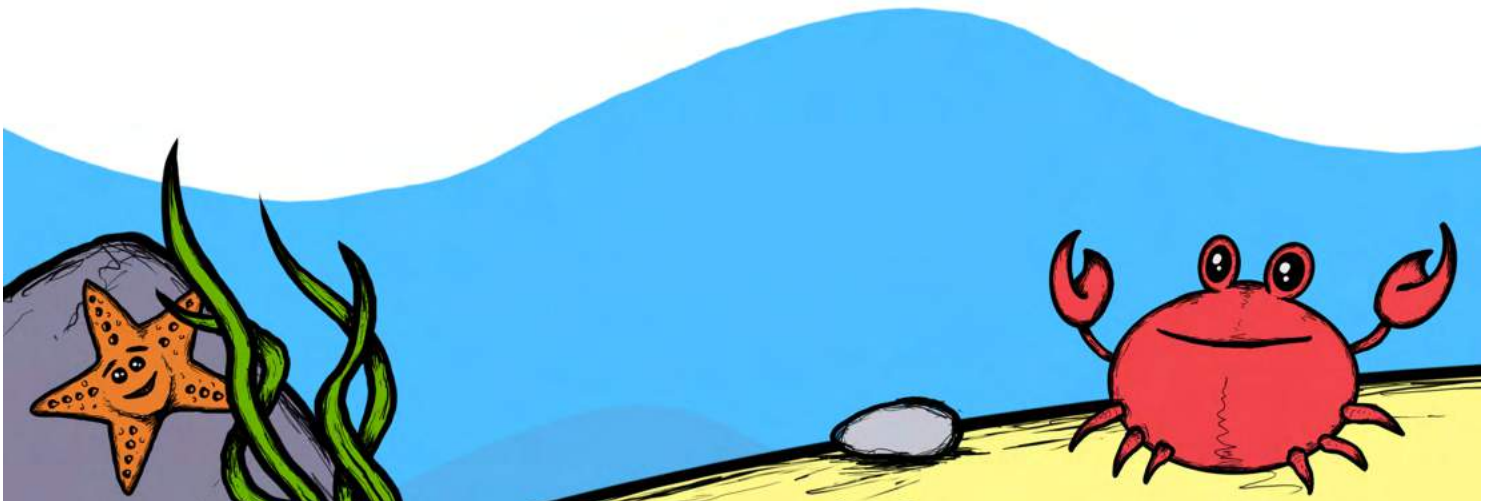
After you've worked through this booklet, we hope you'll pledge to join the Pod Squad; a community of ocean loving kids, who are passionate about whales, dolphins and porpoises and the conservation of our oceans!

**Stronger
Starts.**



Thank you to Tesco Stronger Starts for the funding of our Pod Squad project! Tesco Stronger Starts supports thousands of local community projects and good causes across the UK.

<https://tescostrongerstarts.org.uk>



Whales, dolphins and porpoises are incredible!

They are huge, acrobatic, clever and beautiful.

Whales, dolphins and porpoises (known collectively as cetaceans) are mammals (just like humans!). They breathe air, give birth to live young, the young suckle milk from their mothers, and they are warm blooded.

Cetaceans can be split into two groups; those with teeth and those without teeth!

All porpoises and dolphins have teeth, which they use for grabbing large prey like fish and squid. They do not chew their food, but swallow their prey whole! Some whales, like the sperm whale, have teeth.

But most whales do not have teeth, they have baleen. Baleen is made out of keratin, the same material as our hair and fingernails. Brush-like layers of baleen hang from a whale's top jaw.

1) Whales will open their huge mouths to catch lots of small prey; like krill (tiny shrimplike creatures). They have muscles in the skin from their chin to their belly button, which can relax and open up like a huge parachute to engulf huge amount of prey-filled water

2) After catching lots of prey in their mouth, they close their mouth

3) The whale then uses its tongue to push the seawater out of their mouth (they don't want to swallow it!)

4) The baleen is used like a sieve to trap the prey in their mouth, but the seawater is pushed out

5) The whale then swallows all the prey!

Did you know?

The largest whale is the blue whale, growing up to 33m long! That's the same size as three double-decker buses

Orcas are not whales - they are the largest species of dolphin

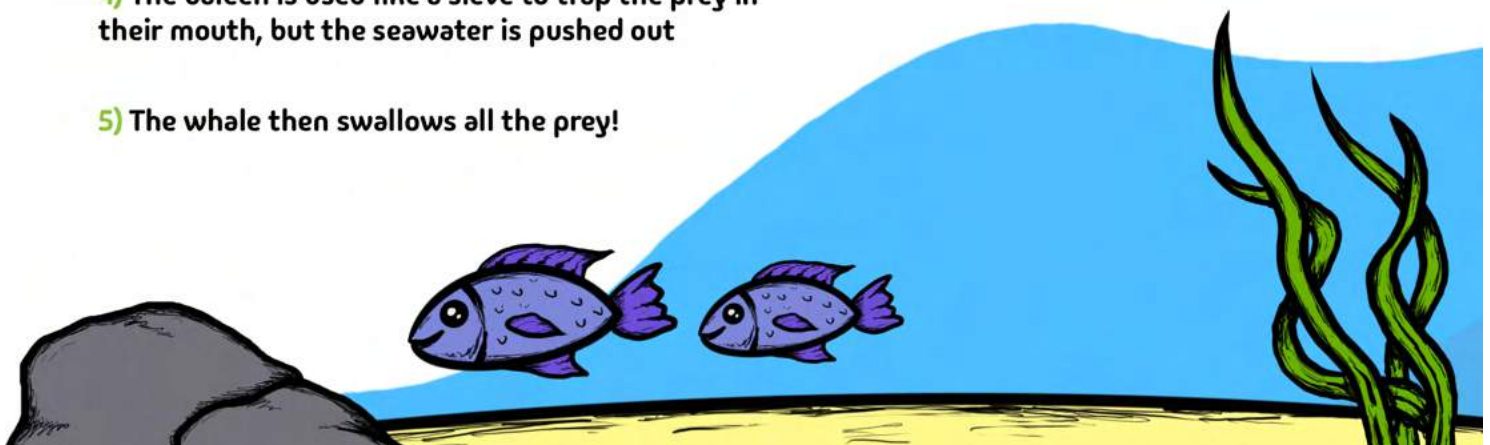
The sperm whale has the largest brain of any animal, and their teeth can be as large as a brick

Porpoises have spade-shaped teeth, but dolphins have sharp cone-shaped teeth

Can you find two fun facts to add?

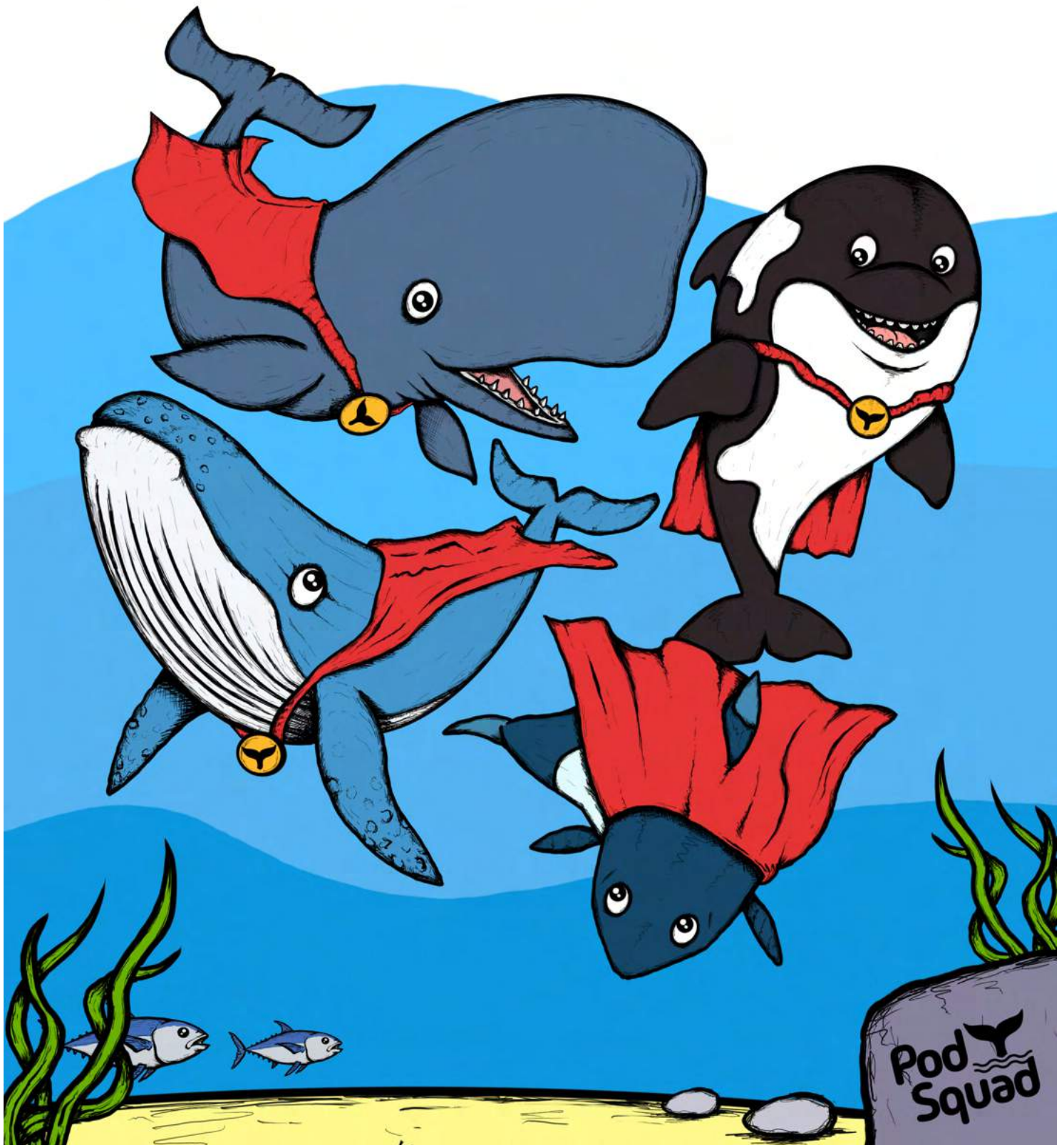
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2)



Meet the Pod Squad

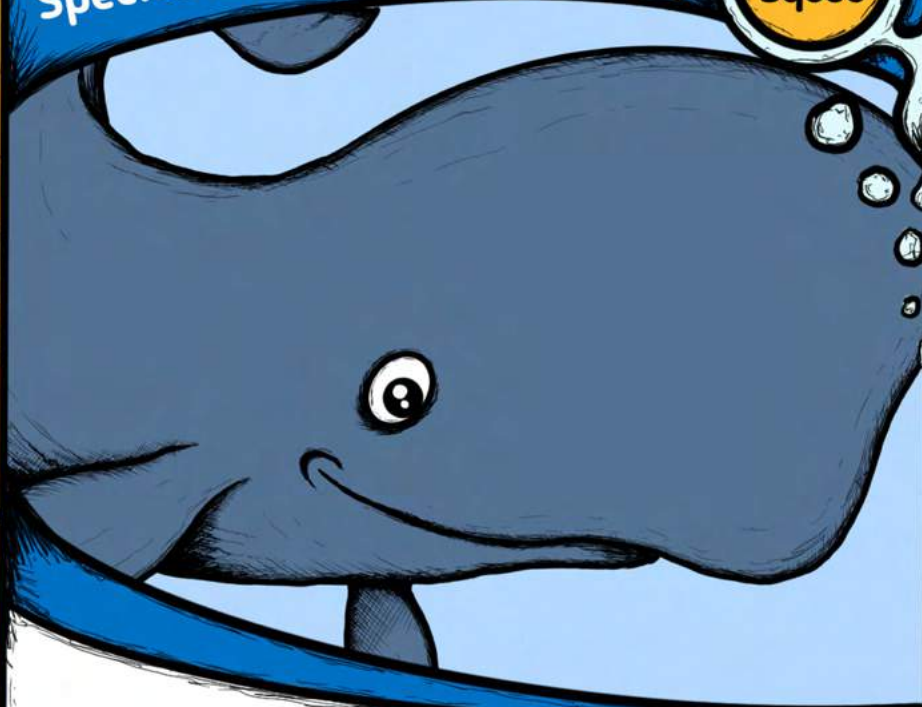
The Pod Squad are a team of ocean superheroes who work together to help protect all creatures in the ocean!



Thunder

Species: Sperm whale

Pod
Squad



Fun Fact: Sperm whales are the largest of the toothed whales, and each one of their teeth is as large as a brick!

Natural Super Power: Sound! Sperm whales "speak" in extremely loud clicks, which they make in rhythmic patterns called codas.

About Thunder: Thunder the sperm whale is amazing at communication, he can make very loud noises which can be heard from a long way away! However, he struggles to be quiet, and his big, booming voice is known to scare and shock his friends!

Size: Up to 20m

Weight: Up to 50,000kg

How deep can they dive:
Up to 2,000m

Age: Up to 70 years old

Speed: Up to 15km/h

Spark

Species: Orca

Pod
Squad



Fun Fact: Orca are the largest species of dolphin and they can be found all across the world's ocean

Natural Super Power: Intelligence Orca brains are very large, and they have similar characteristics to a human brain - they are extremely intelligent, sociable and empathetic (which means they know how someone else is feeling, even when you aren't in the same situation)

About Spark: Spark the orca is extremely intelligent, and always thinks of complex solutions to problems really quickly. However, as Spark is so clever, she sometimes works too quickly, and gets frustrated when others don't understand her ideas!

Size: Up to 9.8m

Weight: Up to 5,500kg

How deep can they dive:
Up to 1,000m

Age: Up to 90 years old

Speed: Up to 50km/h

Glide

Species: Humpback whale

Pod
Squad



Fun Fact: Humpback whales are the most acrobatic whale, often jumping out of the water and twisting in the air (called breaching), and slapping their tails and fins on the water, creating huge splashes

Natural Super Power: Stamina! Humpback whales live throughout the world's ocean. They can travel great distances during their seasonal migration with some animals migrating 8,000 km between summer feeding grounds near the north or south pole, and winter mating and calving areas in tropical waters.

About Glide: Glide the humpback whale has a map of the world's ocean in her head. She quite clumsy and known for accidentally jumping on sea lions!

Size: Up to 17m

Weight: Up to 40,000kg

How deep can they dive:
Up to 200m

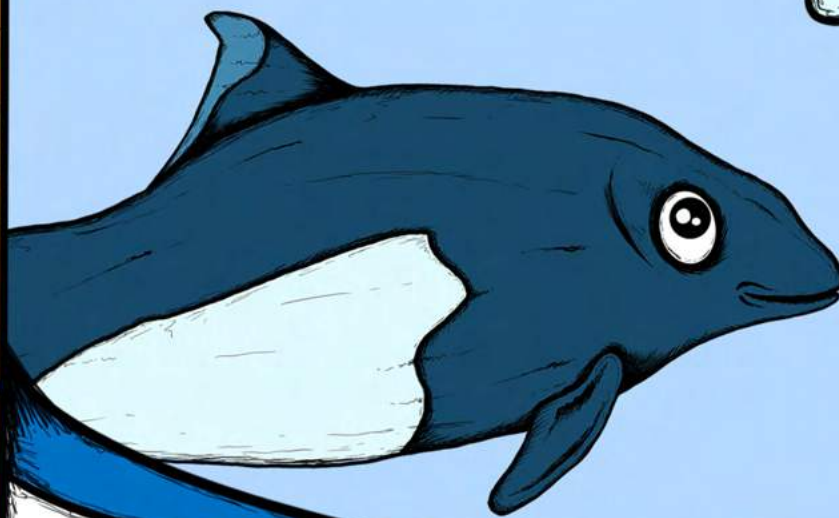
Age: Up to 90 years old

Speed: Up to 27km/h

Dash

Species: Dall's porpoise

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Squad



Fun Fact: Dall's porpoises are the largest species of porpoise

Natural Super Power: Speed! Dall's porpoises can reach speeds of 55 kilometers per hour

About Dash: Dash the Dall's porpoise is super fast and is always racing around trying to do as much as he can in as little time as possible! However, he does tend to rush into things which can sometimes get him into trouble.

Size: Up to 2.3m

Weight: Up to 220kg

How deep can they dive:

Up to 500m

Age: Up to 22 years old

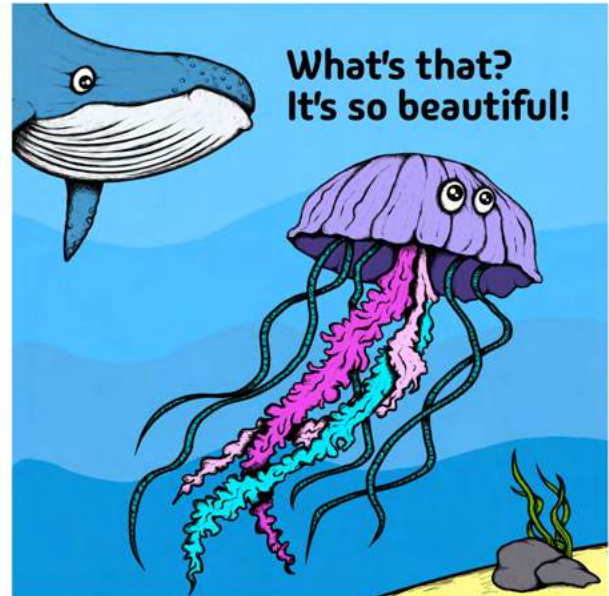
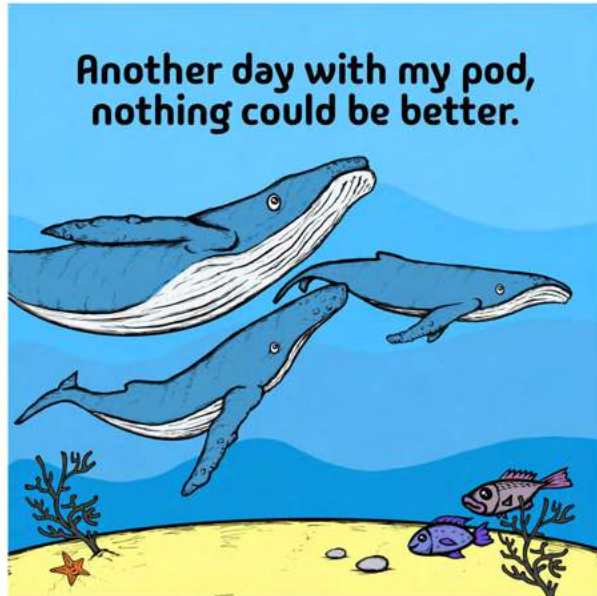
Speed: Up to 55km/h

Design your own Pod Squad Character

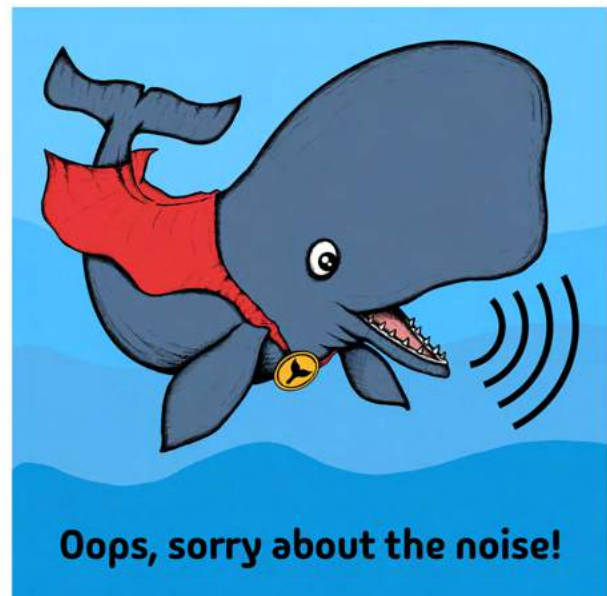
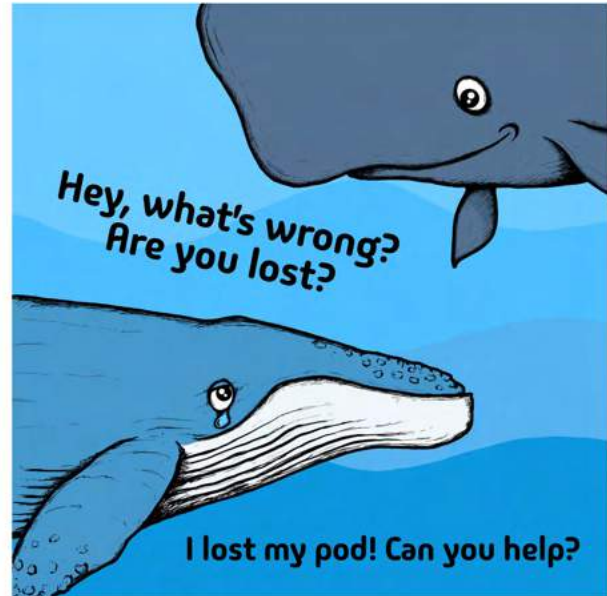
Research a species of cetacean and create your own Pod Squad character! Fill in their own Fact File and what is their natural superpower?

The form is a hand-drawn template for a character fact file. It features a large curved area for a drawing, a circular logo in the top right corner, and a table with five rows for facts.

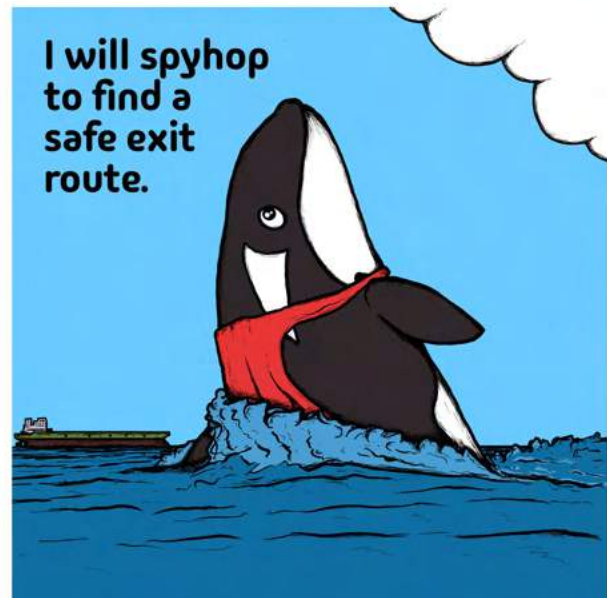
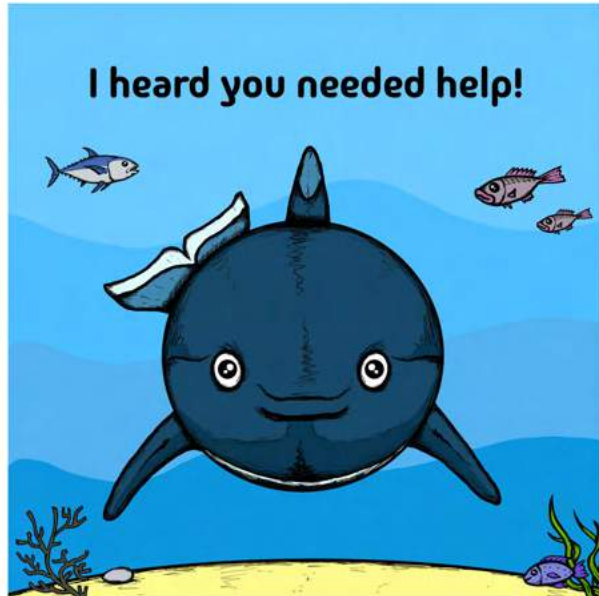
Pod Squad	



Glide the humpback whale gracefully swims alongside her pod, their sleek bodies cutting through the deep blue ocean. Mesmerised by the glowing display of a bioluminescent jellyfish, Glide veers off course. Realising her mistake, Glide turns back towards her pod, but to her dismay, she finds herself all alone...



Panic sets in as Glide discovers herself in the midst of a bustling shipping lane. Thunder the sperm whale, drawn by Glide's distressed cries, emerges from the depths to investigate. With a deep breath, he prepares to utilise his powerful voice to call for help. Thunder's booming calls reverberate through the water, startling Glide.



Responding to Thunder's call, Dash the Dall's porpoise arrives swiftly on the scene. Dash conducts a rapid search of the area. After a brief exploration, he encounters Spark the orca. Drawing on Spark's intellect, the Pod Squad devises a plan to locate Glide's family and identify a safe route out of the shipping lane.



With Spark's guidance, the Pod Squad identifies a safe path through the shipping lanes, charting a course that will lead Glide back to her family. With the plan in place, Dash races ahead to inform Glide's family of their impending reunion. Through their teamwork and ingenuity, the Pod Squad overcomes the challenge of noise pollution and busy shipping lanes.



Write your own Pod Squad Story

Submit yours (either individually or as a class)
and you could win a cuddly orca! Your story
might also feature in our next Pod Squad comic!

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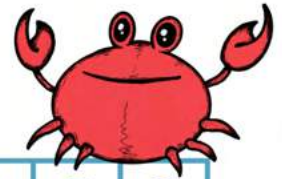
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email it to us on info@orca.org.uk

Find the names of the Pod Squad team!



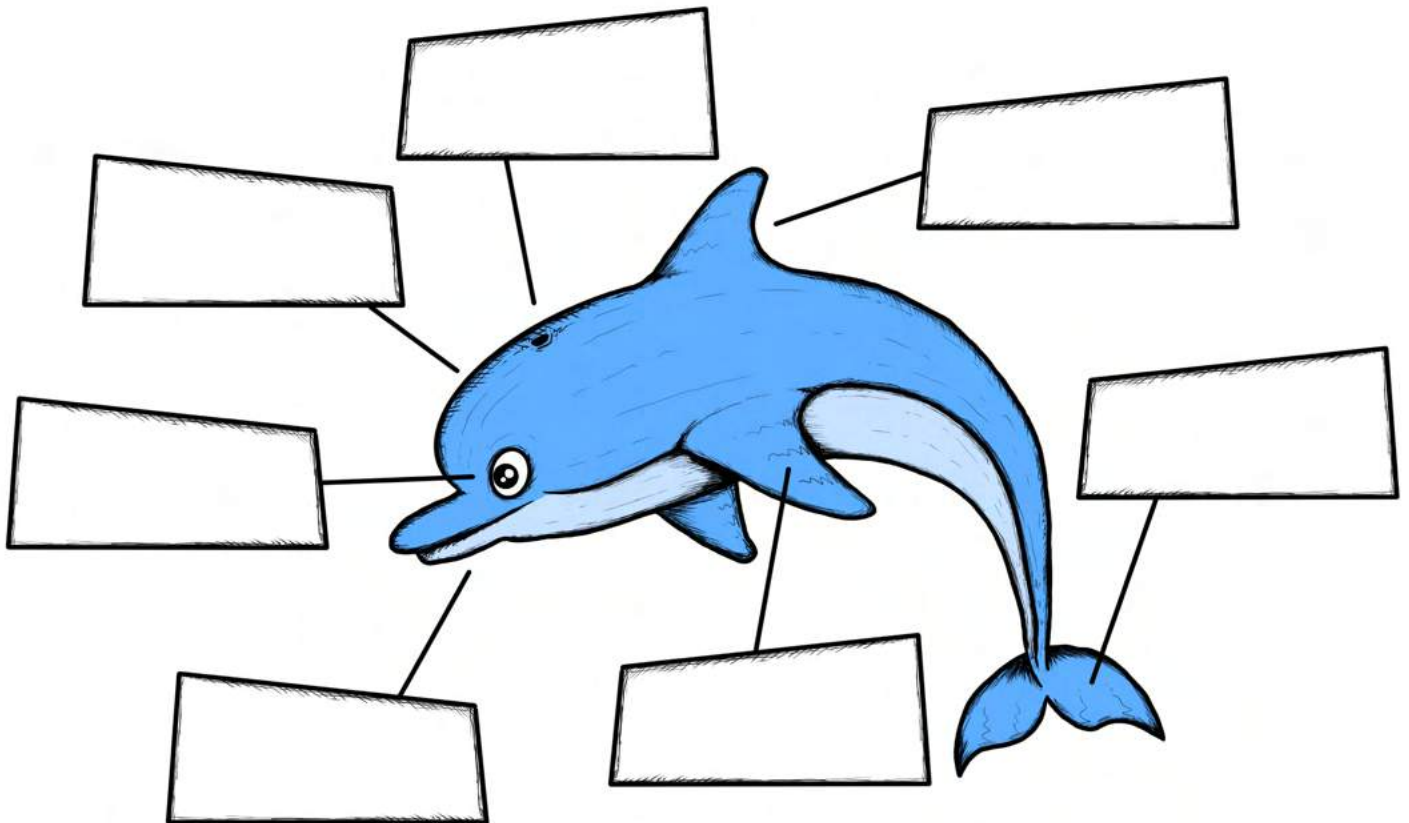
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T	H	U	N	D	E	R	L	S	D	A	S	H	Z
F	H	S	V	T	N	K	S	W	N	Q	G	W	P

Dash, Glide, Thunder, Cetacean, Ocean, Pod, Baleen, Teeth, Porpoise,
Dolphin, Whale, Orca, Humpback



Which name is missing?

Welcome, explorers! Let's explore dolphin anatomy. Label what you see as we uncover the wonders of these ocean athletes.



Can you find...

Dorsal fin

Pectoral fin

Blowhole

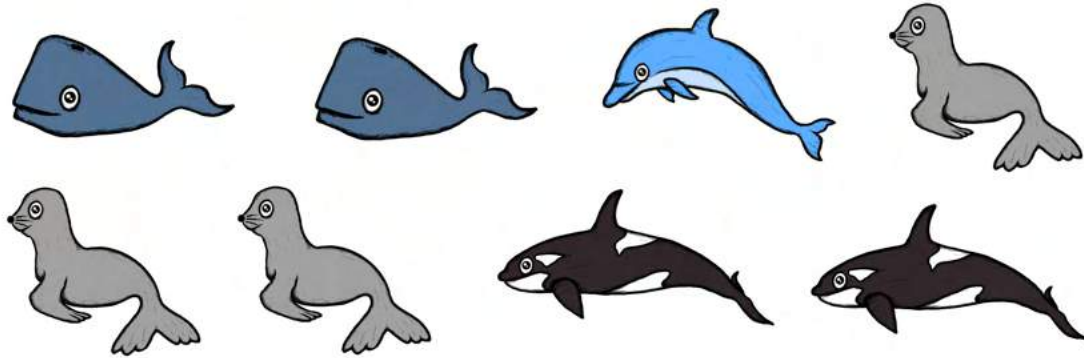
Eye

Flippers

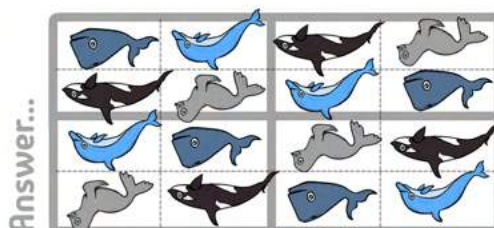
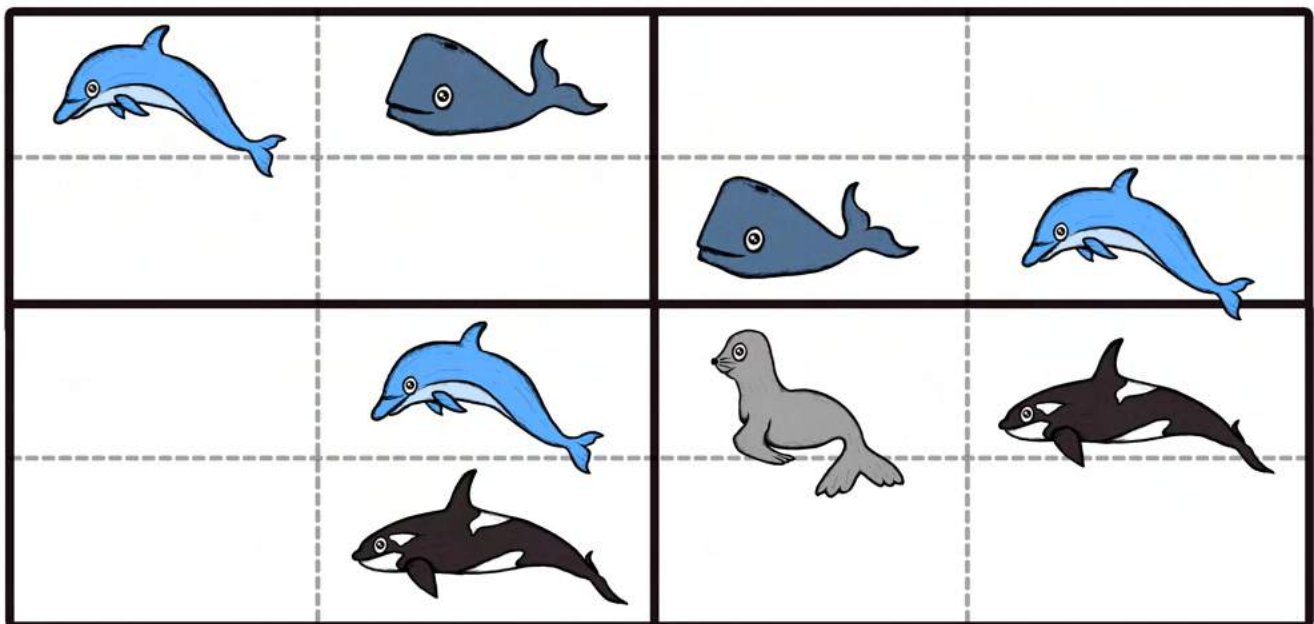
Melon

Beak

Cut out the animal icons below. Place the animals in a square so that no row, column or group of 4 squares has the same animal more than once!



If you don't want to cut them out, you could draw the animals in the box instead.



Whale Blows

Baleen whales have two blowholes on top of their heads. This is their nose! When whales breathe out, water vapour (and snot!) shoots out of their blowholes. The shoot of water coming out of a whale's blowholes is called a blow. Different species of whales have different shaped blows.

Can you do your best whale blow impression?

Fin whale – Tall, straight blow

Humpback whale – bushy blow that looks like the shape of a mushroom

North Atlantic right whale – V shaped blow

Blue whale – HUGE, straight blow

Measuring Giants

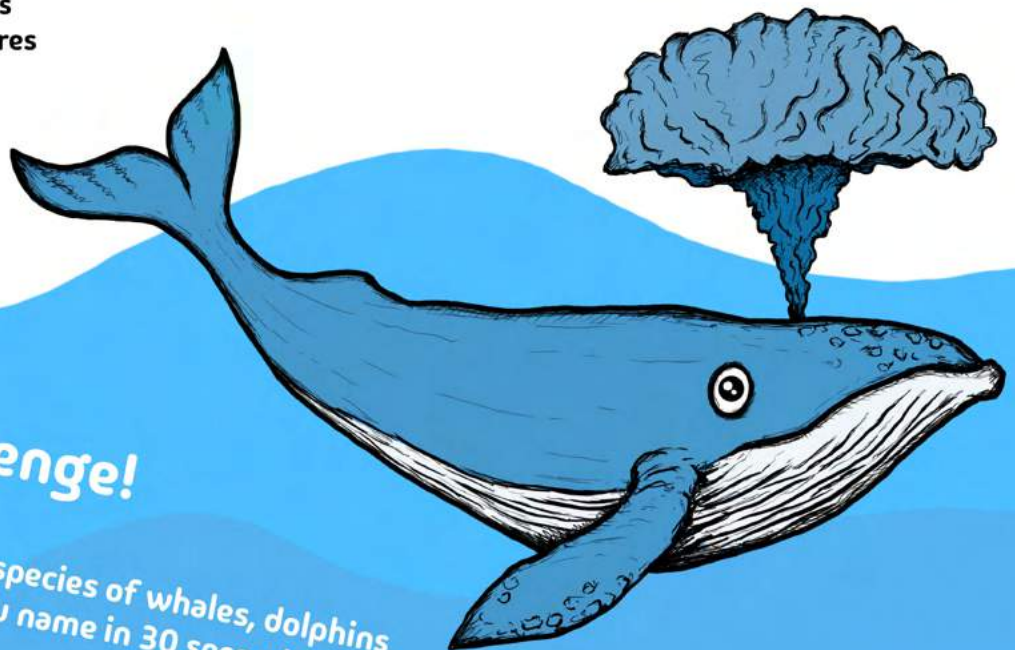
For this activity, you'll need at least two people and a tapemeasure! Using a measuring tape, measure out the lengths below for each member of the Pod Squad.

Orca – 9.8 metres

Dall's porpoise – 2.3 metres

Humpback whale – 17 metres

Sperm whale – 20 metres



Time Challenge!

How many different species of whales, dolphins and porpoises can you name in 30 seconds?

I got 11, can you beat that?

Thank you!

As you continue your adventures, remember that every action, no matter how small, can make a big difference in protecting our oceans and the magnificent creatures that call it home.

Whether it's reducing plastic use, supporting marine conservation efforts, or spreading awareness, you have the power to create positive change.

