

## Indoor Activity: Swimming Squid Siphon

Squids are more important to the ocean ecosystem than you may realize. Squids and other cephalopods do an excellent job at keeping their ecosystem balanced by feeding on smaller fish and crustaceans to make sure the oceans primary producers, like algae, have a chance to grow. Squid also act as prey for many animals like large fish, dolphins, whales, and sharks. In this month's activity, we'll learn about squid's special form of locomotion. Squids propel themselves with a special body part called a siphon. Their siphons intake water through an opening on top of their head and shoot it out to move quickly through the water.

### Materials:

- Balloon
- Push/Pull cap (can be taken off water bottles or dish soap tops)
- Ribbon or String
- Scissors
- Marker
- Large tub (bathtubs and sinks will work too)
- Water (facet)



### What to do

1. Fill your balloon with water until its about the size of a softball.
2. Ask an adult to pinch the balloon shut in a way that allows access to a large amount of the balloon's lip and neck.
3. Carefully pull the lip of the balloon over the Push/Pull cap. Make sure the cap is closed, it should fit snug in the balloon's neck.
4. Tie ribbon or string around the balloon's neck to create tentacles.
5. Fill your tub up 4-5 inches deep.
6. Put your squid in the water and twist the top open.
7. Watch your squid propel through the water

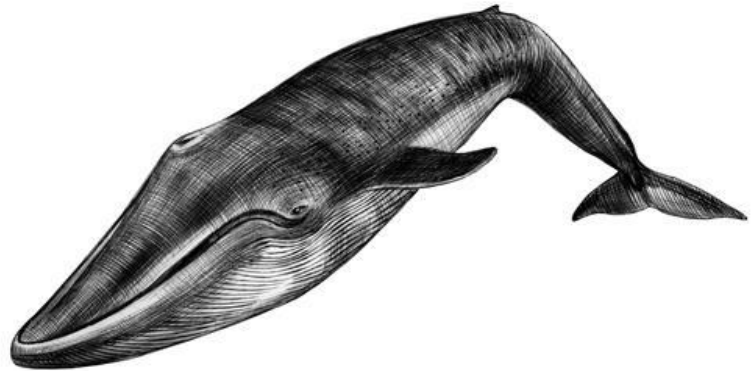


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July 2024 – Ocean Awareness

## Outdoor Activity: Measure a whale!

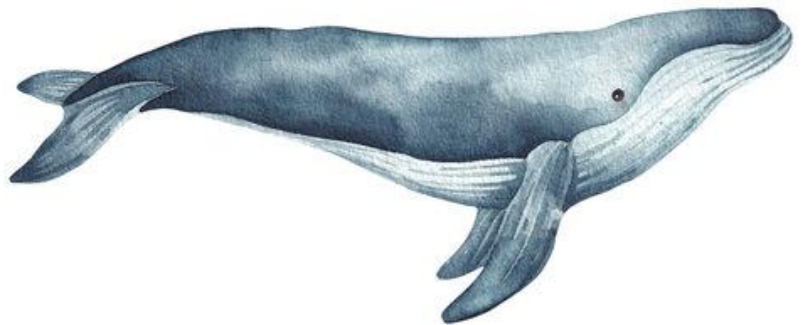
Humpback whale: 50 ft / 15.24m
Blue whale: 100 ft / 30.48m
Orca: 27 ft / 8.2m
Sperm whale: 59 ft / 18m
Beluga whale: 15 ft / 4.5m
Blue whale baleen: 3 ft / 91cm
Blue whale dorsal fin: 1 ft / 30cm
Blue whale heart: 5 ft / 1.5m



Blue whales can grow to 100 feet long and consume around 9,000lbs of krill a day. This month's activity will have you compare your size to various whale species. This activity will give you a better understanding of how large ocean wildlife can be.

## Materials:

- Measuring tape (50–100 feet)
- Side walk chalk
- List of sizes



## Procedure:

- Find a safe, spacious place to conduct this activity. (Parks, neighborhood sidewalks, and empty parking lots are ideal)
- Measure various objects with your measuring tape. Keep track of each size by drawing lines on the ground with your chalk.
- First you should measure yourself. This will help you get a good look at size comparison.
- Using your body measurement, make a guess on how many people your size can fit inside a whale.
- Use your list of various sizes to create more measurement lines on the ground next to your body measurement.
- Step back and compare the length of ocean animals to yourself.

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