

Fiction or Nonfiction?



Objective

Students read a variety of books about whales. They differentiate between fiction and nonfiction writing and compare whale natural behavior to the kinds of things that whales can do in fiction stories. They write their own fiction and nonfiction about whales.

Materials

- ❑ a variety of fiction and nonfiction books that feature whales or whale characters. See page two for suggested resources.

Action

1. Use independent and teacher-led reading techniques to introduce your students to books about whales. Include both fiction and nonfiction.
2. Discuss the whales you have read about. Ask students to compare the real and imaginary whales. What are the characteristics of the whales you've read about in nonfiction books? What are the characteristics of imaginary whales? Are some characteristics common to both? On the board, generate a list of words that describe the real and imaginary whales in your books.
3. Help students create a Venn diagram showing the characteristics of real whales and imaginary whales. Use the word list you generated in step 2.

Here's an example:



4. Ask students to write about whales. They write examples of nonfiction and fiction.



Fiction or Nonfiction Reading Resources

Amato, Carol. *Captain Jim and the Killer Whales*. Hauppauge, New York: Barron's Educational Services, Inc., 1995 (fiction)

Anastasio, Dina. *Dolly Dolphin and the Strange New Something*. Bridgeport, Connecticut: ThirdStory Books, 1994 (fiction).

Arnold, Caroline. *Baby Whale Rescue. The True Story of J.J.* Mahwah, New Jersey: BridgewaterBooks, 1999.

Chessen, Betsey and Pamela Chanko. *A Dolphin Is Not A Fish*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1998.

James, Simon. *Dear Mr. Blueberry*. New York: Aladdin Paperbacks/Simon & Schuster, 1996 (fiction).

Kovacs, Deborah. *All About Whales*. Bridgeport, Connecticut: Third Story Books, 1994.

Lewis, Gary A. *Shamu's Best Friend*. Bridgeport, Connecticut: Third Story Books, 1994 (fiction).

McMillan, Bruce. *Going on a Whale Watch*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1992.

Nuzzolo, Deborah. *This Is a Dolphin*. San Diego: SeaWorld, 2002.*

Patchett, Fiona. *Under the Sea*. London: Usborne Publishing Ltd., 2002.

Resnick, Jane. *Shamu's Secrets of the Sea*. Bridgeport, Connecticut: Third Story Books, 1994.

Siberell. *Whale in the Sky*. New York: Unicorn/E.P. Dutton, 1982 (the retelling of a legend).

Trimble, Irene. *Whales!* New York: McClanahan Books Company, Inc., 1999.

Weiss, Ellen. *Shamu and His Friends. A First Book of Baby Animals*. Bridgeport, Connecticut: ThirdStory Books, 1994.

Welsbacher, Anne. *Killer Whales*. Mankato, Minnesota: Capstone High-Interest Books, 2002.

*These books available through SeaWorld. Call 1-800-23-SHAMU for order information.