

Thar She Blows



Objective

The student will identify features found in a killer whale's environment.

Materials

For each student:

- Photocopies of page 2
- 3 in. plastic drinking straw (optional)
- 12" x 18" white construction paper
- Crayons

For class:

- Blue, non-toxic tempera paint (equal parts water/paint)
- Bowls for paint
- Glue or gluesticks
- Scissors

Background

Killer whales inhabit all oceans of the world. Found in both the open ocean and coastal waters, they're most numerous in the Arctic, the Antarctic, and areas of cold-water upwelling. Whale-watchers look for a "blow," or spout, to spot a whale. A whale's blow is not water rising from the blowhole. It's actually water vapor condensing as the respiratory gases expand in the open air.

Action

1. Give each student a copy of page 2. Ask them to carefully cut out the killer whale.
2. Distribute construction paper and have students glue the killer whale to it.
3. Discuss a killer whale's environment. What might its home include? (fishes, seaweeds, seals, seabirds, rocks, cliffs, sand, etc.). Describe and define the word "habitat." Students use crayons to draw an environment around the whale (except for the water—you'll add that later).
4. When students finish drawing, demonstrate how to create water "splashes" on their pictures. Place a drop of paint on a piece of paper and blow through a straw to create "splashes" of water with the paint. (If desired, you can demonstrate without a straw.)
5. Give each student a straw; then place three drops of paint on each student's paper. (Allow students to direct where you place the paint.) Or students can blow without a straw. Add more paint dots to students' pictures as time allows.



Killer Whale

Name _____

