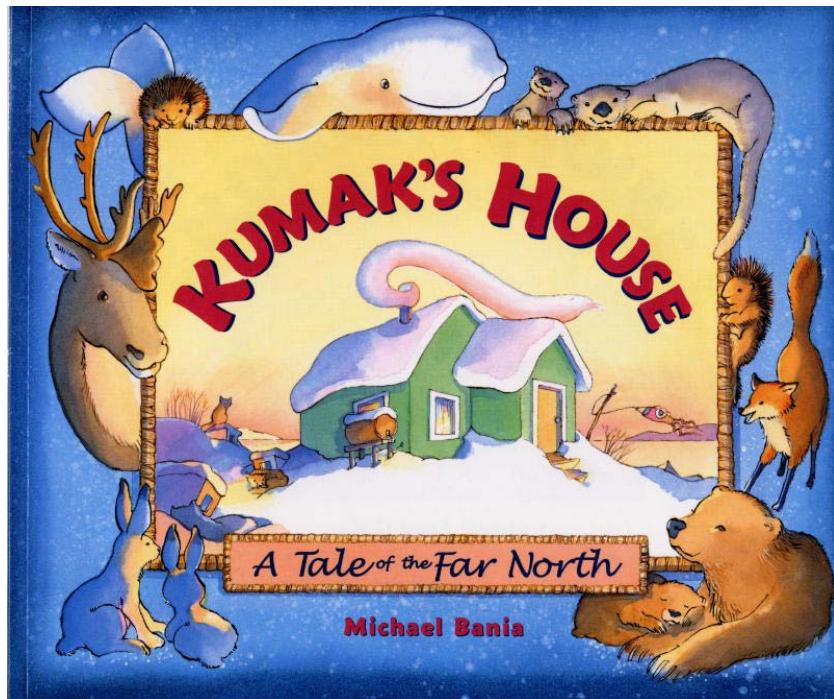


Books in the Home Program



Kumak's House: A Tale of the Far North

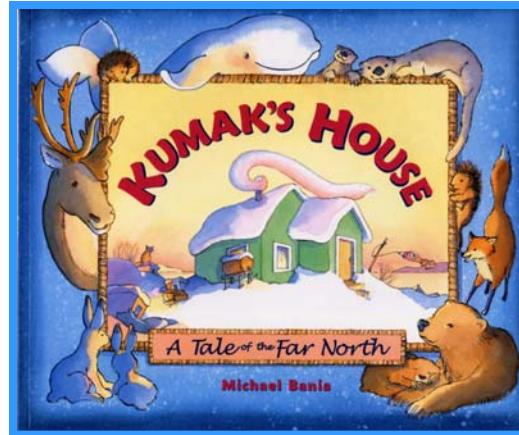
by
Michael Bania

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Copies of *Kumak's House*

If you would like to buy more copies of the book *Kumak's House*, you can contact your local bookstore.



The Book Cellar (867) 920-2220

Yellowknife 1-800-944-6029

Pages (867) 874-3331

Hay River

Boreal Bookstore (867) 777-3748

Inuvik

North of 60 Books (867) 872-2606

Fort Smith



What You Will Need for This Session

- A copy of *Kumak's House* for each family in the program
- A journal for parents
- Copies of the *Traditional vs. Present Ways of Learning* handout
- Copies of the *Activities to Do at Home with Your Children* handout
- Copies of the *Literacy Action Plan* handout
- Craft materials—crayons, glue, scissors, paper, etc.
- *Kumak's House* activities in this kit
 - ★ Unscramble
 - ★ Arctic Animal Memory Game
 - ★ Where I Live
 - ★ Caribou Fact Sheet
 - ★ My Whale Book
 - ★ Origami Whale
 - ★ One Cold Snowy Morning
 - ★ The Seagull and the Whale
 - ★ Animal Matching Game
 - ★ The Letter *Ww*

Snack of the Week— Taco Dip

500 ml cottage cheese
250 ml cream cheese
1 package of Taco seasoning
½ cup of grated cheese
½ cup of salsa
Cut up veggies—lettuce, tomatoes, green pepper, green onions, olives.

Warm the cream cheese a little. Then mix the first 3 things together. Spread on the bottom of a casserole dish. Spread salsa. Put veggies on top and sprinkle with grated cheese. Serve with tortilla or corn chips.



Session Overview

Introductions

- **Warm Up Activity**—Do a warm up activity with participants.

There are instructions for a *Twenty Questions* game included in this kit (see p. 6).

- **Expectations**—Ask parents what their expectations of the evening are. Flipchart the responses and then try to meet those expectations.

- **Group Agreements**— Review the Group Agreements.

Group Brainstorm & Discussion

- Review what happened during the week

- What kinds of literacy activities did you do at home last week?
- Did you follow your action plan?
- How did it go?

- Brainstorm with parents how children learn.

- Give out the *Traditional vs. Present* handout. Have participants brainstorm how people learned traditionally and how they learn now.
- Have parents work in small groups to fill in the handout and then report back to the larger group.
- Make sure you record all the information on a flipchart.
- Talk about the differences and why there have been so many changes.

**Tip of the Week—
Nutritious Snacks**

It is important to have a good nutritious snack for the families that attend your family literacy program.

Snacks with fruit, veggies, cheese, brown bread and crackers and yogurt are especially good. Juice and water make good drinks.

Try to avoid food with too much sugar and/or fat.

Kumak's House by Michael Bania

- Introduce the book.
- Read the book together as a group.
- Discuss the book as a group.
- Brainstorm activities related to this book that parents can do at home with their children.
- Make an activity related to the story that families can use at home.
- Give out handouts related to the book and review the activities together. Make sure you go over each activity and show parents how to do them.

Adult Writing

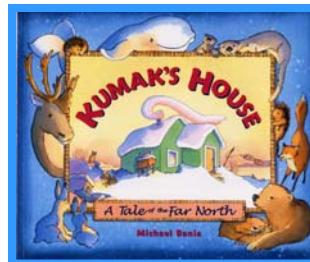
- Have parents review the weekly Literacy Action Plan for next week.
- Have parents write down one thing in their journals that they learned this evening and then share it with the group, if they want to.

Wrap Up

- Ask the participants for feedback on the session: “What did you like about the session? What did you not like?”

Story Time

- Have children come back from their reading circle to spend time reading with their parents.
- Gather everyone together and read one more story or teach the poems to everyone.



Nutritional Snack

- Take a break for a nutritional snack and drinks.

Twenty Questions

1. Choose any item that people might be familiar with. For example, you might choose a politician, or a snowmobile, or banana, or lynx.
2. Participants then have to try to guess the item, but can ask only questions with “Yes” or “No” or “I don’t know” answers. For example, “Is it a person?” “Is the person male or female?” “Does he live in Canada?” “Does he live in the Northwest Territories?” “Is he a politician?” “Is he . . . (someone’s name) ?” Etc.
3. The game is over if twenty questions have been asked and no one has guessed the right answer.
4. If someone guesses the right answer, that person can choose the next item and answer the questions.
5. You might also play this as a vocabulary game in an Aboriginal language.



Traditional vs. Present Ways of Learning

Traditional	Present
Who is responsible for teaching?	
How do they teach?	
When do they educate?	
What is taught?	

Activities to Do at Home with Your Children

- ★ Allow your children to help you in the house. They can help set the table, fold the laundry, sweep the floor, etc.



- ★ Let your child pick out his own clothes today.

- ★ Ask your child what his favourite animal is. Make up a story with the animal and your child in it.

- ★ Invite one of your child's friends over. Make a snack together.

- ★ Visit an elder together. Take a gift, and perhaps she will tell you a story about when she was young.



- ★ Teach your children a new word each day. Help them to use it in a sentence.

- ★ At the dinner table, have each member of the family talk about something nice that happened to them today.

These are all great family literacy activities that you can do with your children!



Literacy Action Plan: *Kumak's House*

Monday

- read together for 15 minutes
- complete - Where I Live sheet together
- children work on their Whale Book

Tuesday

- read together for 15 minutes
- read the fact sheets and answer the questions
- do a craft together

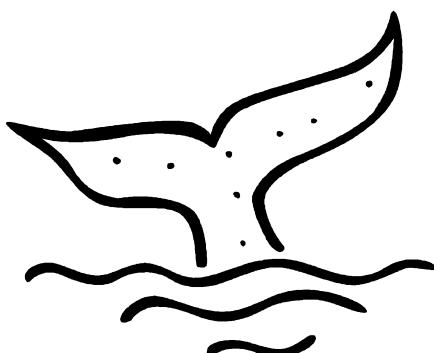


Wednesday

- read together for 15 minutes
- children work on their Whale Book
- talk at the supper table about school

Thursday

- read together for 15 minutes
- read the poem together
- tell stories before bedtime



Friday

- read together for 15 minutes
- write a story about your family
- illustrate your story

Saturday

- read together for 15 minutes
- children work on Whale Book
- make a shopping list together

Sunday

- read together for 15 minutes
- go for a walk together and see if you can see any wildlife
- draw pictures of your walk together



Unscramble!

Unscramble the letters below to make the names of Arctic animals:

ekilrl	hwlae	
oprал	areb	
npfufi		
wruals		
smoeo		
ales		
wveorinle		
sywon	olw	
sown	ogeos	
gnrlandee	khars	

Answers: killer whale, polar bear, puffin, walrus, moose, seal, wolverine, snowy owl, snow goose, Greenland shark



Where I live

Work on this activity together. If your children cannot write yet – write in their answers.

The house or apartment I live in . . .



My house has _____ bedrooms.

I live with my _____.

My favourite place in the house is _____.

The community I live in ...



I live in _____.

The school or pre-school I attend is _____.

My community has lots of _____.

I think my community is great because _____.

The territory I live in . . .



I live in the territory of _____.

The capital of my territory is _____.

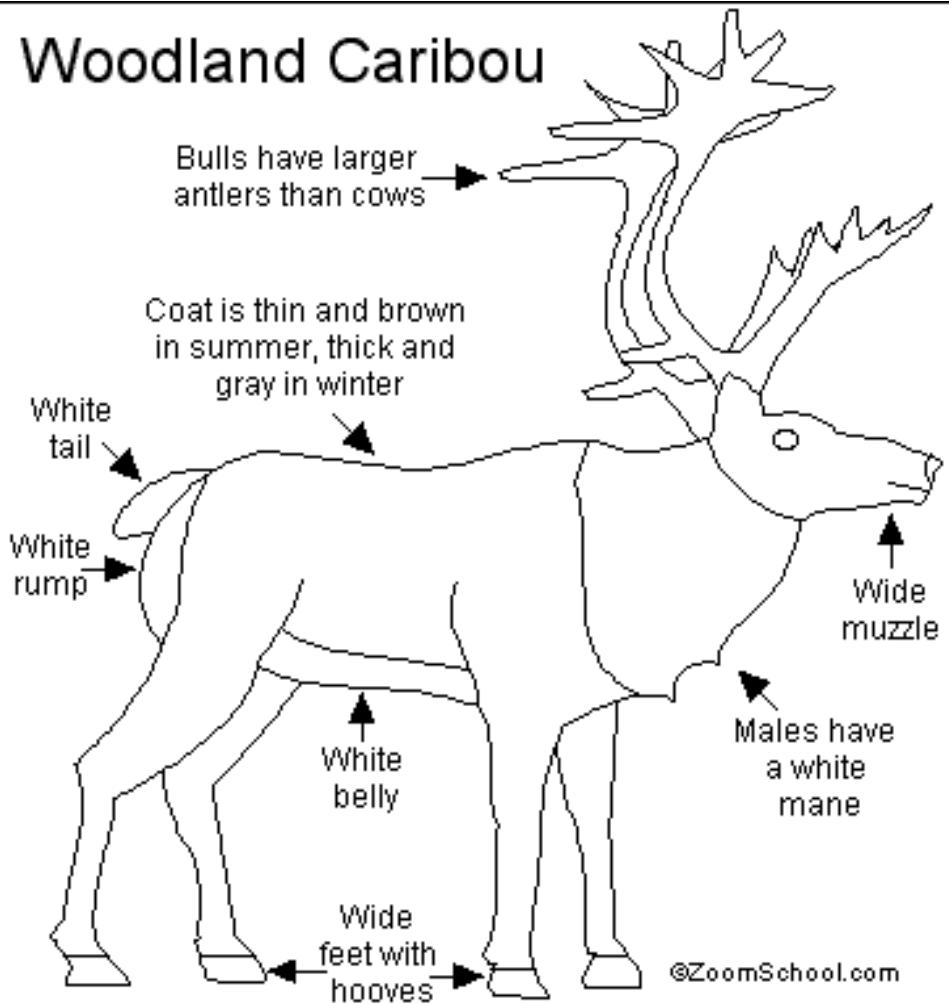
The abbreviation for my territory is _____

The territorial bird is



Caribou Fact Sheet

Woodland Caribou

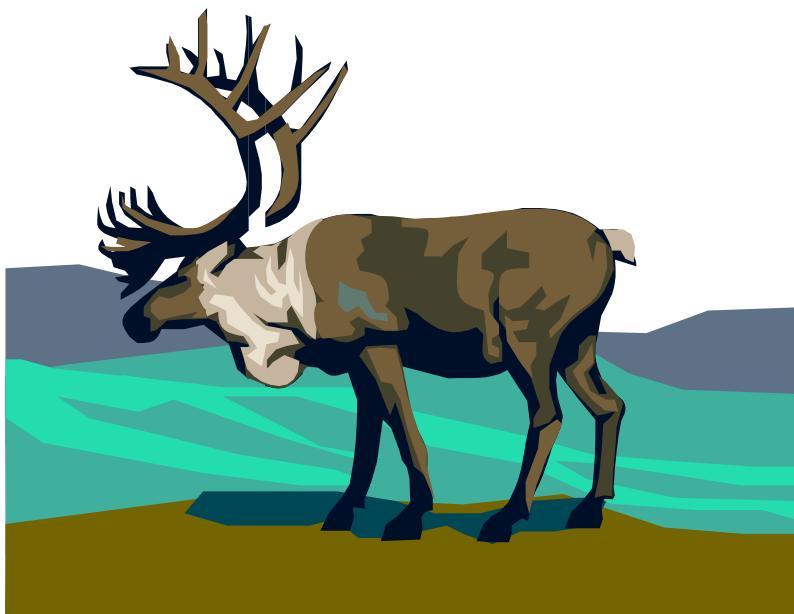


The caribou is a member of the deer family and is closely related to reindeer. Deer are found in the tundra, forests, and mountains. Caribou migrate in huge herds across the tundra, traveling over 800 miles (1290 km) each year. They have a life span of about 15 years.



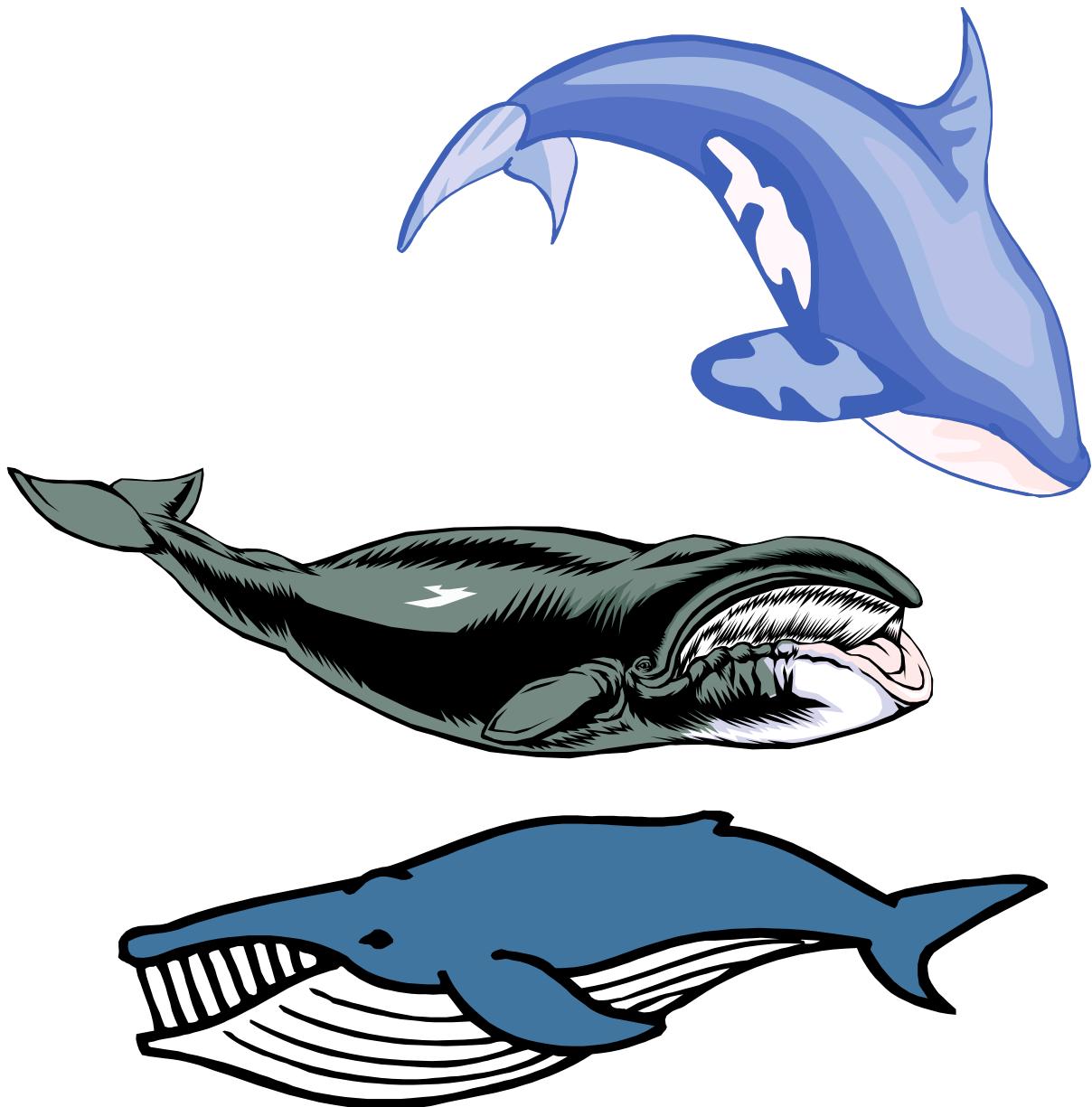
Anatomy: The Caribou is about 4 feet (1.2 m) tall at the shoulder and about 6 feet (1.8 m) long. Unlike most types of deer, both bulls (males) and cows (females) have antlers, which they shed each year and re-grow. They have wide hooves and a broad muzzle.

Diet: The Caribou spends most of the day eating grass, leaves, and other plant material.

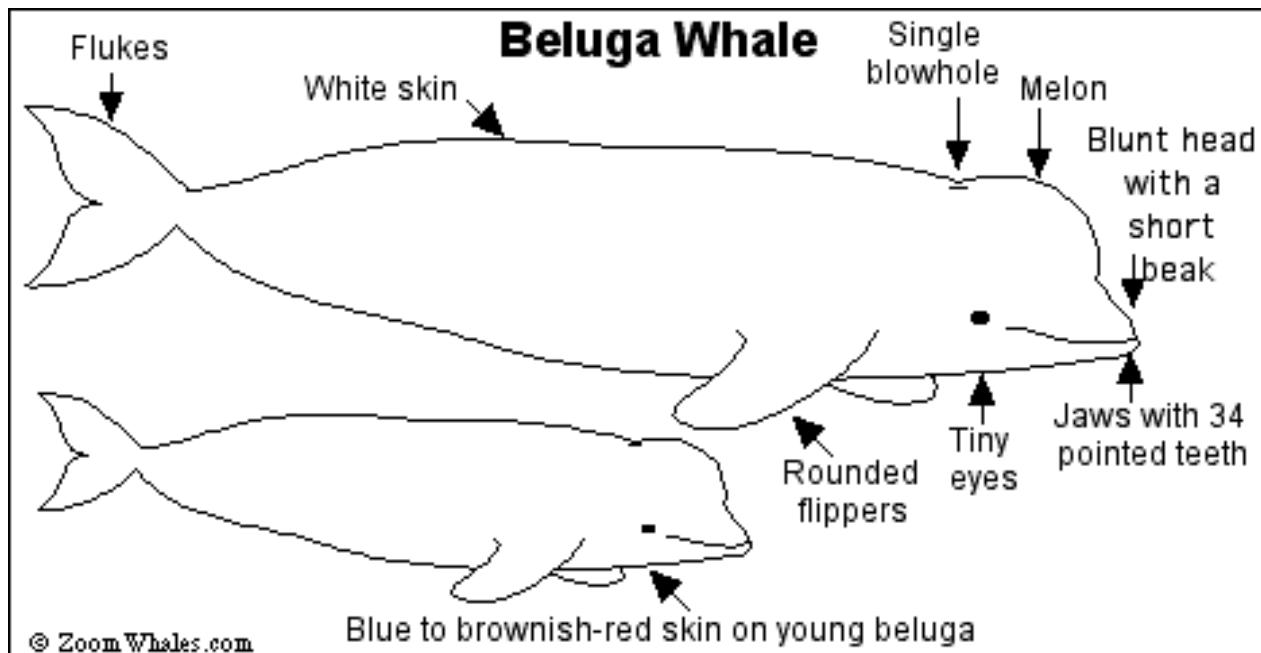


My Whale Book

Make copies of the following pages. Help your child to make a book about whales. Cut the whales out and stick them on the cover.



My Whale Book: Beluga Whales



The Beluga whale lives in cold Arctic and sub-Arctic waters. The adult has white skin and sharp teeth. Belugas are very social animals, gathering in pods (social groups) of 2-25 whales. They are slow swimmers who are hunted by killer whales, polar bears, and people.

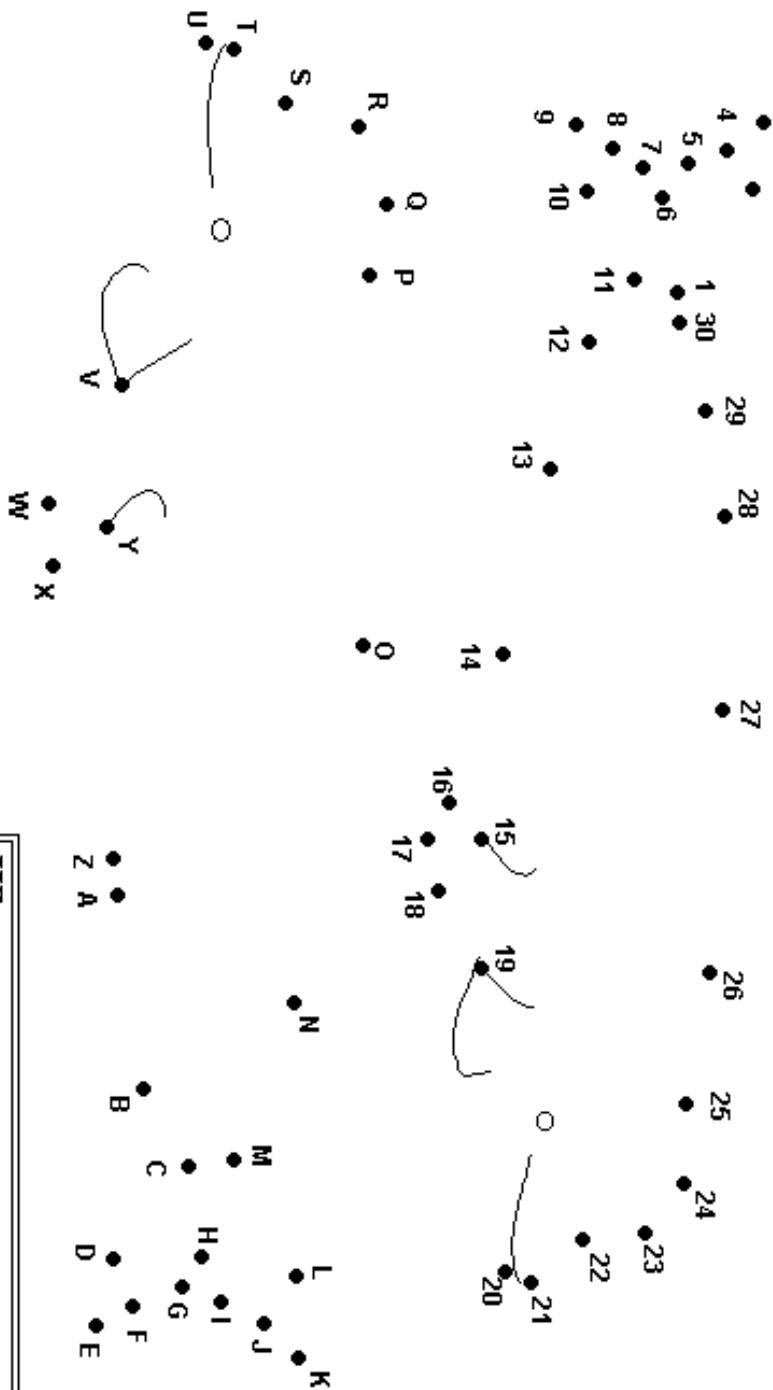
Diet: The Beluga is a meat-eater. It hunts and eats fish, squid, shellfish, octopi, and worms that live on the bottom of the ocean. The Beluga finds its prey by using echoes.



My Whale Book: Whale Connect-the-Dots

Whale Connect-the-Dots

Name _____



These whales are small, toothed white whales that live mostly in cold, Arctic waters. They are about 15 feet (4.6 m) long. These carnivores eat a varied diet of fish, squid, crustaceans, and other marine animals.

What are these whales called?

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My Whale Book: Beluga Math

Do the addition problems and then substitute a letter for each number, from the letter code, to answer the question below.

This type of whale is small, white, has teeth, and lives in cold water.

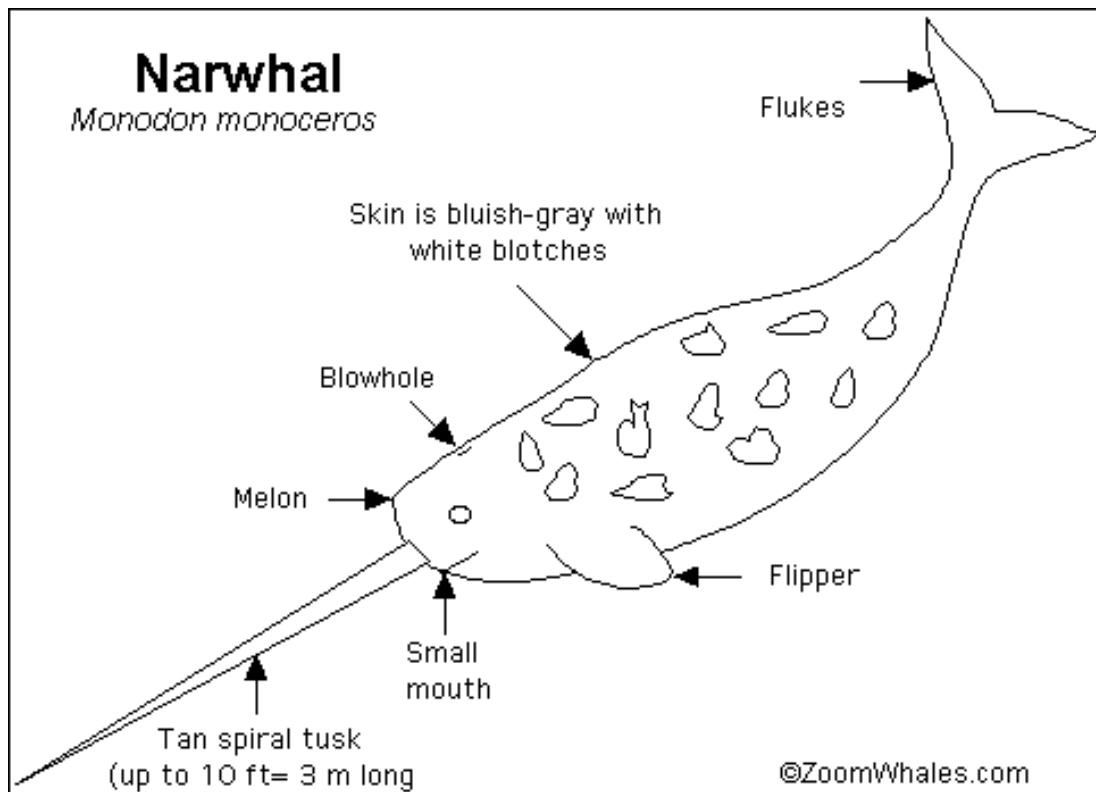


Letter Code:

2-A	4-E	7-L
3-B	5-G	8-U
	6-H	9-W

	2 +1	1 +3	3 +4	2 +6	2 +3	1 +1	.	6 +3	2 +4	2 +0	1 +6	3 +1
Math solution												
Letter substitution												

My Whale Book: Narwhals



Narwhals are social whales that live in the very cold Arctic waters. Narwhal means "corpse whale"; this perhaps describes their skin, which is bluish-gray with white blotches (young narwhals are brown).

Anatomy: Males have a very long, hollow, spiral tooth. Narwhals can grow to be about 16 feet (4.5 m) long (not counting the tooth), and weigh about 1.8 tons (1.6 tonnes).

Hunting and Diet: Narwhals eat fish, squid, shrimp, and other sea animals.

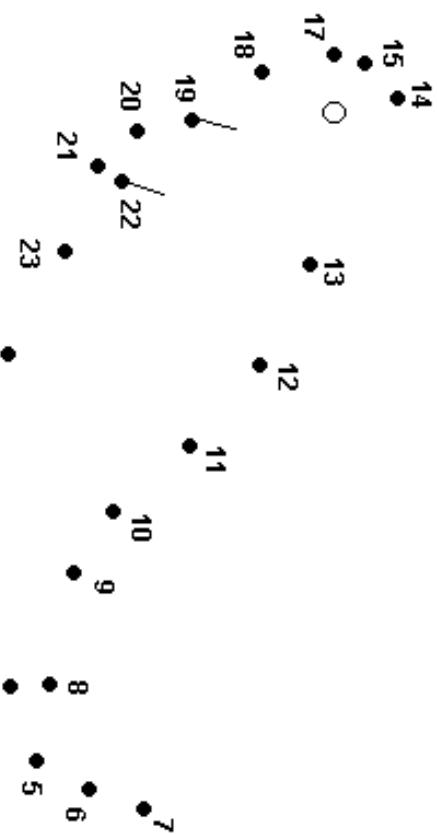


My Whale Book: Mystery Whale Connect-the-Dots

१

Mystery Whale Connect-the-Dots

Name _____



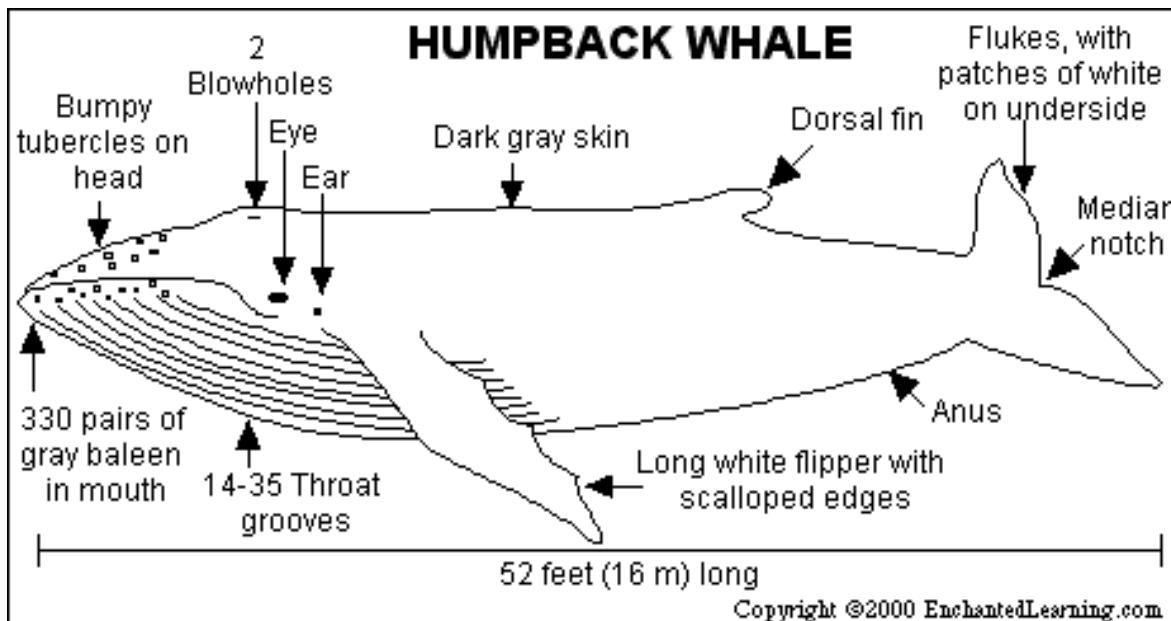
The males of this species of toothed whales have a very long, spiral tooth. These whales live in cold, Arctic waters. They are up to 16 feet (4.9 m) long. These carnivores eat a varied diet of fish, squid, crustaceans, and other marine animals.

What are these whales called? _____

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My Whale Book: Humpback Whales



Humpback whales are extremely acrobatic and sing long, complex songs. They are very social and often travel and hunt in groups (pods).

Diet and Bubble-Net Feeding: Humpback whales filter what they eat. They eat tiny shellfish, plankton, and small fish (including herring, mackerel, capelin, and sandeel). These social whales sometimes hunt cooperatively; they have developed a method of rounding up groups of prey using a method we call bubble-net feeding. The hunting members of a pod form a large circle and then blow a wall of bubbles as they swim to the surface in a spiral path.



The cylindrical wall of bubbles makes the trapped prey swim to the surface, where the whales eat them.

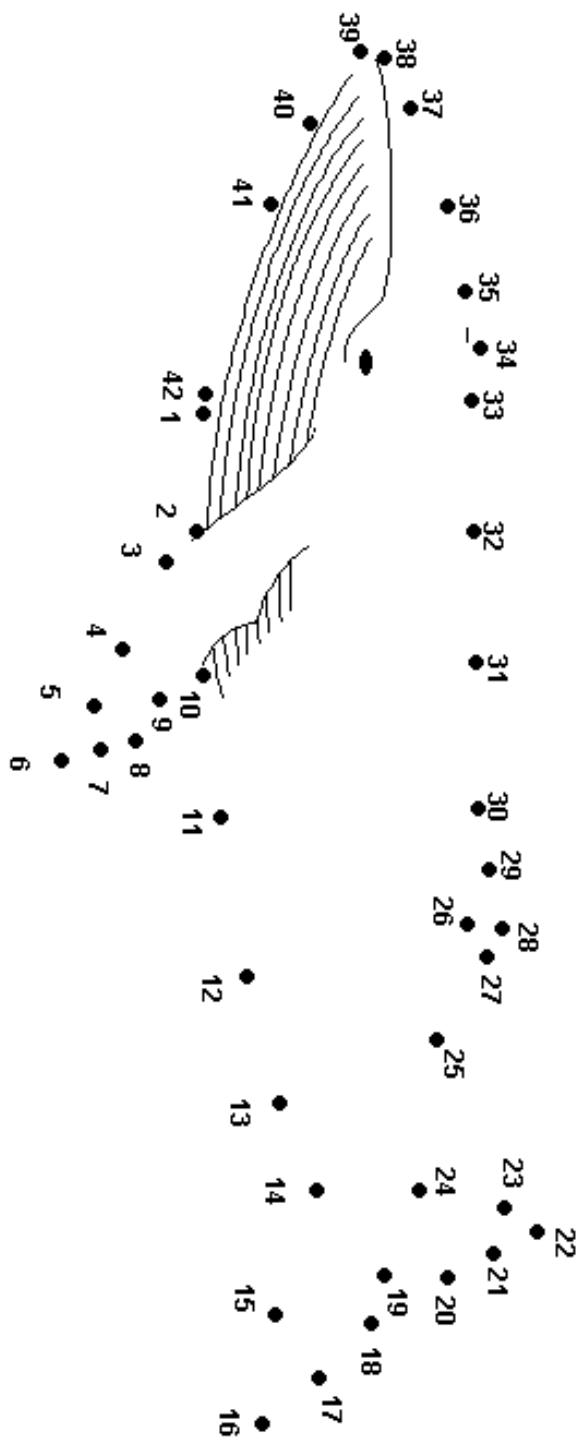
Swimming: Like other whales, Humpbacks swim by moving their tail (called flukes) up and down. Fish swim by moving their tail left and right.



My Whale Book: Whale Connect-the-Dots

Mystery Whale Connect-the-Dots

Name _____



This baleen whale sings more than other whales. Very acrobatic, this whale has large flippers with scalloped edges. Throat grooves run from from its chin to its belly. This whale grows to be about 52 feet (16 m) long.

What is this whale called?



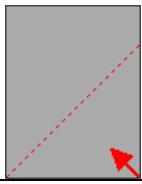
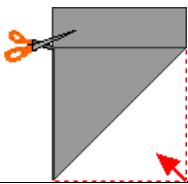
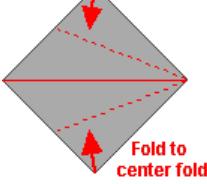
Origami Whale

This is a simple-to-make origami whale.

You will need:

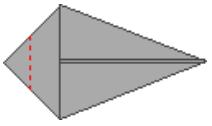
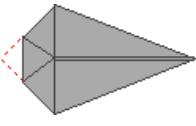
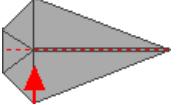
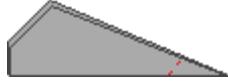
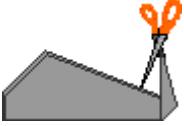
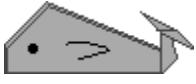
- ★ Construction paper
- ★ Scissors
- ★ Markers or crayons
- ★ A pipe cleaner or curling ribbon for antennae

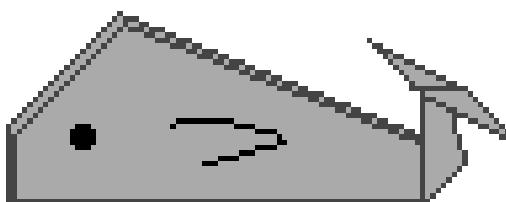
Here is what you do:

	Start by making a square piece of paper. To start making the square, fold one corner of a piece of paper over to the adjacent side.
	To finish making the square, cut off the small rectangle, forming a square (which is already folded into a triangle).
	Fold two opposite sides over so that they meet at the fold.



Books in the Home

	Fold the tip over to just meet the other folds.	
	Fold the piece in half along the central line.	
	Fold the tail up.	
	Make a short cut through the end of the fold in the tail. Fold the edges of the tail outwards.	
	Draw eyes, fins, and any other patterns you like, and enjoy your whale.	



Have fun with your whale!



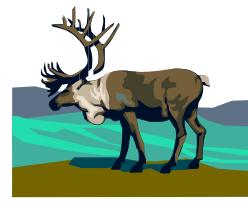
One Cold Snowy Morning

One cold snowy morning a hunter got out of bed
And went out hunting. Then.....

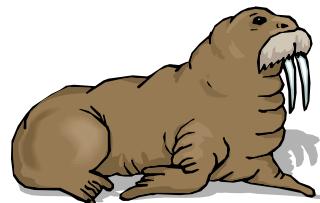
A seal jumped into the bed and said,
"I'm going to be warm today."



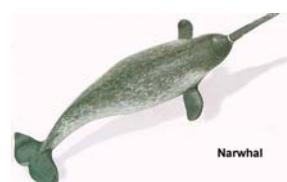
A caribou jumped into the bed and said,
"I'm going to be warm today."



A walrus jumped into the bed and said,
"I'm going to be warm today."



A narwhal jumped into the bed and said,
"I'm going to be warm today."



A polar bear jumped into the bed.
CRASH! BANG! BOOM! The bed collapsed!
The hunter came back
"Get out of my bed!" he yelled.

The seal jumped out of the bed.
Lickety-split.

The caribou jumped out of the bed.
Lickety-split.

The walrus jumped out of the bed.
Lickety-split.

The narwhale jumped out the bed.
Lickety-split.

The polar bear jumped out of the bed.
Lickety-split



And the hunter said, "I guess I'll sleep on the floor tonight."



The Seagull and the Whale

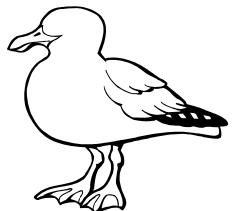
Once there was a seagull who laid a beautiful speckled egg.

One day she came back to her nest.

The egg had vanished!

She met a Seal.

“Have YOU taken my egg?” she said.



Seal opened his mouth very wide.

“No,” he said, “but would you like to come in and look around?”

“No, thank-you,” said Seagull, “Your mouth is much too small.”

Next she met a Walrus.

“Have YOU taken my egg?” she said.



Walrus opened his mouth very wide.

“No,” he said, “but would you like to come in and look around?”

“No, thank-you,” said Seagull, “Your tusks are much too sharp.”

Next she met a whale.

“Have YOU taken my egg?” she said.



Whale opened his mouth very wide.

“I don’t know.” He said. “Would you like to come in and look around?”

“Thank-you,” said Seagull, “I think I will.”

So in she went.

“What a place this is,” said Seagull.





Books in the Home

Soon, who should come in but Seal.

“I was very foolish,” said seal, “Whale has eaten me for dinner.”

Shortly after, who should come in but Walrus.

“I was very foolish,” said Walrus. “Whale has eaten me for dinner.”

“I was very foolish too,” said Seagull. “Whale has eaten me for dinner.”

They all began to cry.

“I’ll never find my beautiful speckled egg,” cried Seagull

“I’ll never see my friends again,” cried Seal.

“and I’ll never lie on the sunny rocks again,” cried Walrus.

Then they heard a cracking sound.

“Something is tickling my ribs,” said Whale.

The egg broke into pieces.

“My beautiful egg!” cried Seagull.

Out popped Baby Seagull

Baby Seagull stretched his fluffy wings and tickled Whale under the ribs.

Whale laughed so hard that he opened his mouth very wide.

Out swam Seal, Walrus, Seagull, and Baby Seagull!

“Now we are free,” said Walrus, “Thank-you Baby Seagull.”

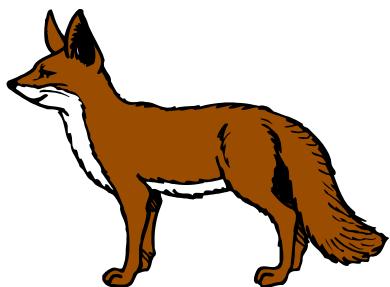


Animal Matching Game

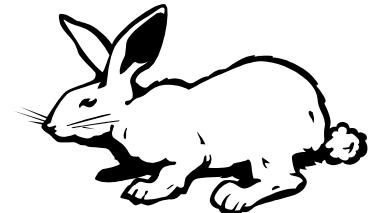
Make cards with animal names on them, or cut out the ones on this page. Make matching cards with pictures of the animals. Help your child to match the names to the pictures.



fox



seal

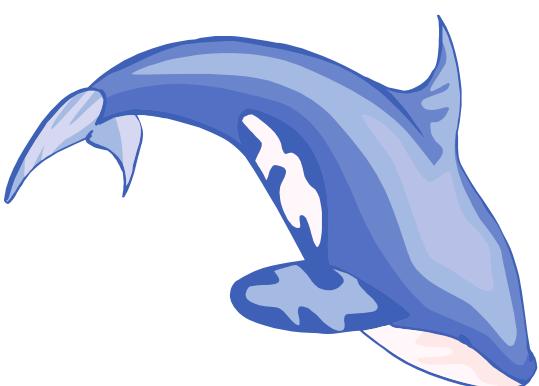


whale

rabbit

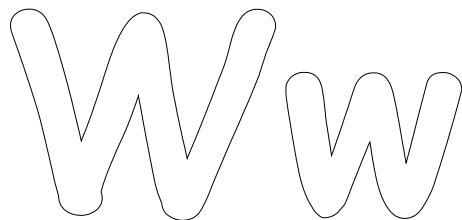
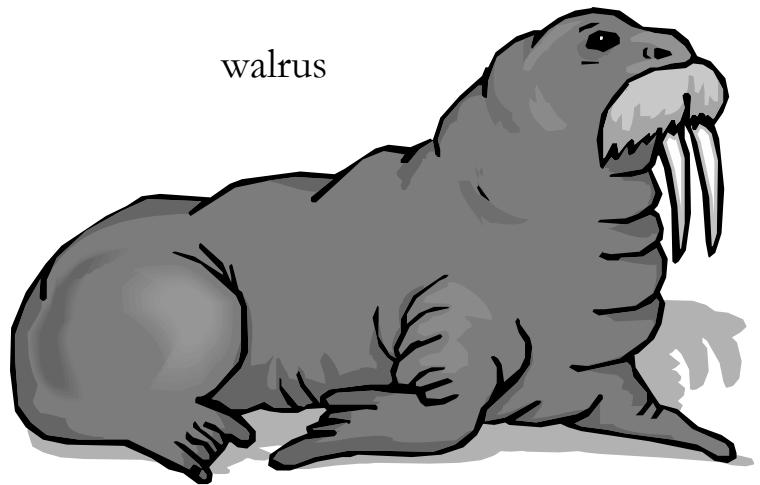


bear

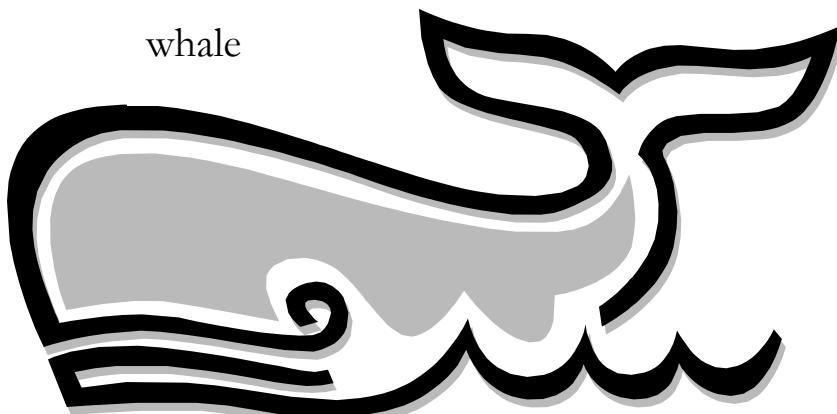


The Letter *Ww*

Colour the pictures and learn the words.



whale



Kumak's House





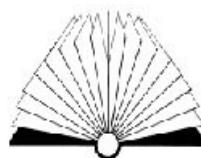
Books in the Home

NWT Literacy Council

For more information on the *Books in the Home* Program, or other literacy programs, contact

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Box 761
Yellowknife
NT X1A 2P6

Phone: 867-873-9262
Fax: 867-873-2176
Email: info@nwtliteracy.ca



NWT Literacy Council



Kumak's House

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