Splash! The humpback whale breaches—or leaps up—and lands in a spray of water. It’s an amazing sight!

- A humpback whale doesn’t really have a hump. But it looks like it has a hump when it arches its back to dive. That’s how the humpback whale got its name.

- Humpback whales live in oceans all over the world. They live near the North and South Poles during the summer. Then, they travel to warmer waters near the Equator during the winter.

- Male humpback whales are famous for their songs. The songs can last up to 20 minutes before they repeat them.

I’ve got to SING!
It’s a Fluke!

Whale tails are called flukes. Every humpback whale has a pattern of black and white markings on the underside of its fluke. The pattern is like a fingerprint—no two whales have exactly the same pattern!

Take a look at the flukes below. Then use crayons to color your own humpback whale fluke. Maybe add some water, too!

Food Patterns

Humpback whales eat plankton (tiny sea animals and plants), krill (tiny shrimp-like fish), and fish. They sift their food from the water with baleen plates. Baleen plates are like combs in their mouths. When the whales take a big gulp of water, the baleen plates trap the food.

Help the humpback whale pick what to eat by drawing what comes next in the pattern.

plankton fish krill plankton fish
plankton fish krill fish fish krill

baleen plates
Sometimes humpback whales **spyhop**. This is when a whale pokes its head above the water and stays up like that for a bit.
A Whale of an Acrostic Poem

An acrostic poem is a poem in which the first letters of the lines spell a word. Read the poem for the word humpback. Then write your own acrostic poem for whale. For each letter, write one or more words about humpback whales.

Huge whale
Under the sea
Moving powerfully
Pushes its body up to the surface
Breaches
And dives
Combs the water for
Krill

W______________________
H______________________
A______________________
L______________________
E______________________

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