

# Big Blue Beasts

Blue whales are one of our most loved and most endangered creatures on the planet. People all over the world have been trying to help and find out more about these fascinating mammals. This article will tell you all you need to know about them.

## Appearance

The deep blue that you picture in your imagination, the colour that stretches over the body of the beast when you think of a Blue Whale, isn't actually there. Under the blue tinted and clear water it may look like that, but if you see one surface and break through the shimmering wall of water, you shall find that its true colour is more of a murky yet light grey. If you happen to glimpse a faint spread of yellow radiating from underneath an adult Blue Whale, it will be the sun bouncing off its yellow microorganism infested belly! It's a commonly known fact that a Blue Whale is three times the size of a double decker bus but have you ever wondered how big that really is? It's as long as 100 feet!

## Diet

The Blue Whale is the biggest animal on earth. Therefore, you would think they feed on something big. Surprisingly, they actually live off krill which is like a small shrimp! To make up for the size of their miniature prey, when a Big Blue Feasts, they feast big. Did you know that this means consuming 8,000 pounds of food a day which results in them being a little heavier than humans by roughly 440,802 pounds.

## Calves

A baby human stays in its mother's womb for nine months. A *Blue Whale calf*, however, stays inside its mother's womb for a full year.

Even though it has just been born, this massive mammal baby is already one of the biggest creatures on earth. Weighing up to 6,000 thousand pounds in it's first year of life and assuming the length of 25 feet, it would be capable of squashing more than a fully grown man. Whilst living along side fully grown krill feasters, an infant whale lives only off his\her mother's milk but consuming a maximum 200 pounds of milk every day for a year. As they continue to grow, their food income increases exponentially.

## Fact File

- **Blue Whales are carnivores**
- **A Blue Whales' group name is a pod**
- **Blue Whales are endangered**
- **There are 10,000 – 25,000 Blue Whale in the world**
- **A Blue Whale's scientific name is Balaenoptera musculus**
- **A Blue Whale's habitat is the oceans**