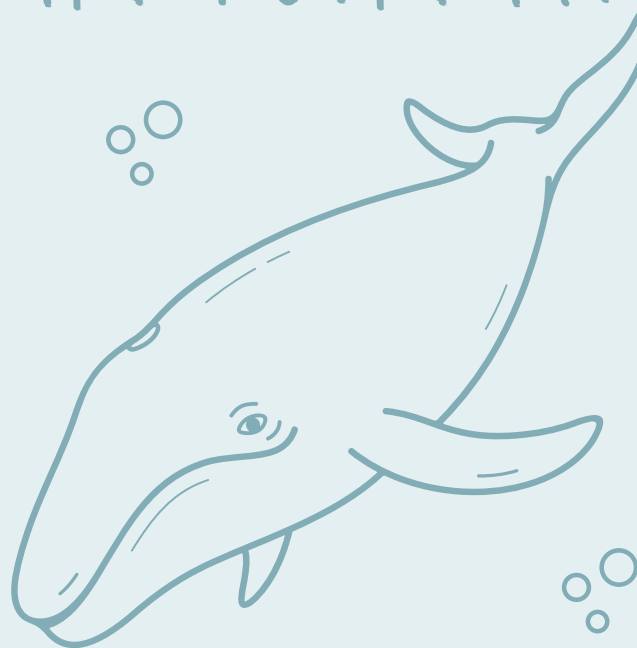




LET'S PAINT A WHALE

WYLAND FOUNDATION



ART PROJECT

FOR GRADES 3-6

Painting Activity - Whales

Table of Contents

Project Overview + Learning Objectives page 3

About Whales ... page 4

Supplies ... page 5

Getting Started ... page 5

Drawing ... page 7

Painting ... page 9

Adding Patterns ... page 10

Painting Activity - Whales



Learning Objectives

Fun facts about whales.

- How to draw one of 12 whales.
- Learn about and draw repeating patterns.
- Techniques for working with permanent markers and watercolors.

Time Required: 90 minutes - 2 hours, broken into two classes.

This project offers an easy way to tie in some science, and involves multiple art techniques. Students will learn to draw a whale inspired by original drawings by famed marine life artist Wyland. Included are line drawings and step-by-step instructions for a gray whale. The next step is adding color with watercolors.

Students will enjoy experimenting with the paint, exploring the wet-on-wet technique, seeing how colors mingle on the paper, and learning to paint around an area.

Once the paintings are dry, students can do lots of line work, drawing repeating patterns in the waves.

About Whales

- Whales are the world's largest animals, and the blue whale is the biggest whale. There are nearly 100 different kinds of whales.
- They're mammals, so they breathe air and are warm-blooded.
- Whales' tails are called flukes. They don't look like fish tails. Whales push themselves through the water by moving their flukes up and down.
- A whale's flippers are on the each side, which are used for balance and turning. The bones inside their flippers are arranged like a hand.
- Whales can't stay underwater like a fish. Before diving, whales breathe air into their lungs through one or two nostrils on top of their heads. When they surface, they blow out their breath, making a spout.
- When whales can't see well in dark waters, they make clicking sounds. The sound waves travel and bounce off objects, then they return to the whales' ears. This is called sonar.
- Some whales migrate to cold waters to feed and live in the summer. They often travel in groups called pods. In the winter they return to warmer waters.
- A male is called a bull, a female is a cow, and a baby is a calf.

Word Wall

Fluke: either of the two parts of a whale's tail.

Flipper: a broad flat limb used by an animal like a whale for swimming.

Migrate: how some animals travel from one place to another, often during the fall or spring for warmer weather and food.

Composition: the placement of objects in a work of art.

Supplies

- Watercolor paper, 9" x 9", and scrap watercolor paper, about 3" x 4"
- (Cut down pieces of 9" x 12" paper to 9" squares and cut the trimmed pieces in half for the warm-up. Supply options can include Strathmore 300 Series, 140 pound or Canson 90 pound watercolor paper.)
- Manila paper or scrap paper for sketches, 9" x 9"
- Pencils and erasers
- Black permanent markers, ultra fine point (Options include: Sharpie ultra fine point. Sharpie Pens are another option.)
- Medium round brushes
- Paper towels with no texture (I use Viva.)
- Liquid watercolors OR pan watercolors (Options include: Sargent Art Magic liquid watercolors or Crayola Educational pan watercolors.)
- Water containers
- Placemats, 18" x 24"

Let's Start

Teachers can find an assortment of illustrations of Whales on the Wyland Foundation website under the heading, "Whaling Walls." But feel free to pass around books with good images and illustrations.

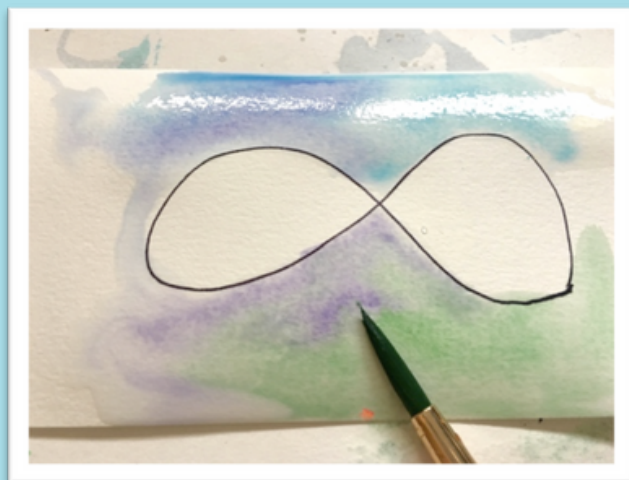
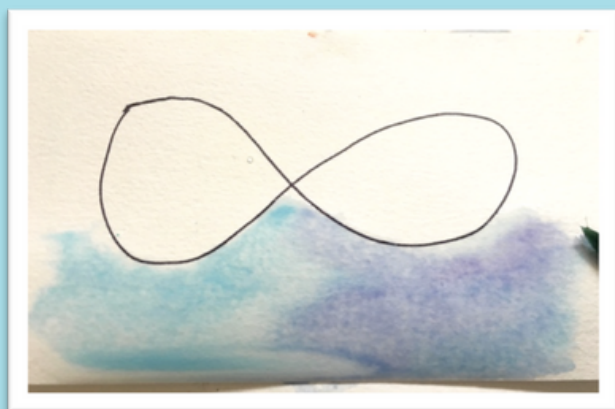
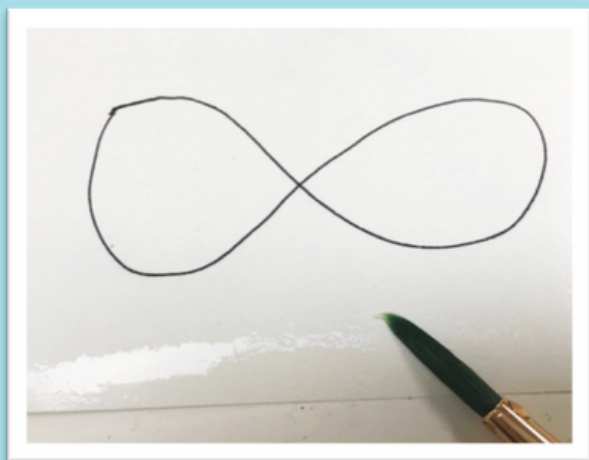
Encourage the children to share what they know about whales. You can highlight that there are almost 100 different kinds of whales, and they're huge. Review the Wyland line drawing and the demo on how a teacher or student might draw it. We sketch the whale first with a pencil on manila paper (9" square) or another scratch paper that's thick enough that the kids can't trace.

You might say: "First I draw some light lines and a dark line on the side of my paper. We're drawing light lines today. "Whales are really big animals, and I'm going to draw big. I decide where on my paper I want my whale. That's thinking about composition. "All of the whales start the same way, with the eye. So I draw a dot for the eye, and then a line for the mouth."

Drawing

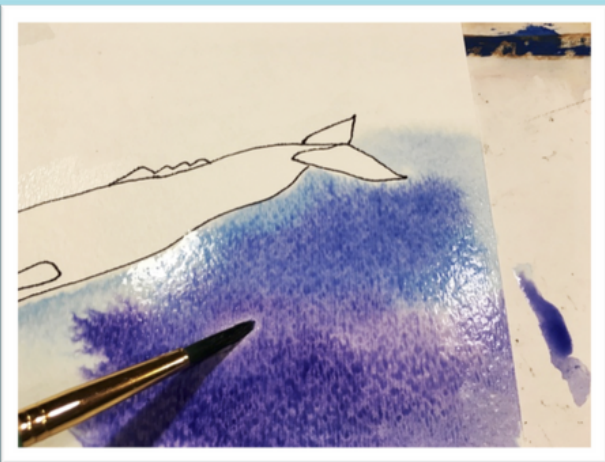
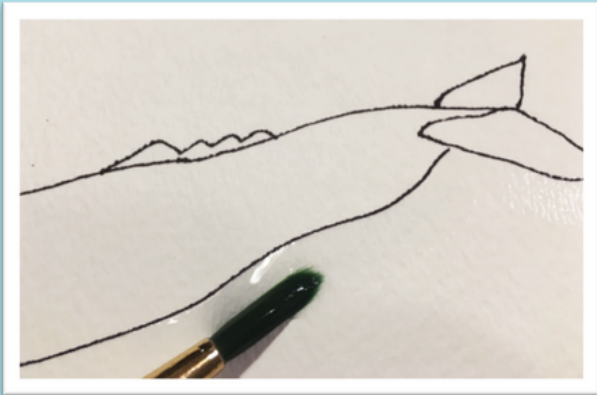
1. Go through the rest of the drawing as shown on the handout. Sketch it again on the other side if you'd like.
2. Next get a piece of watercolor paper and draw your whale. If you don't like your drawing, you can either erase it or turn the paper over and start again.
3. Trace over your lines with your Sharpie. The ink in the marker comes out easily, so you don't need to press hard.
4. Draw a curved line near the top of your paper for the water line.
5. Erase all of your pencil lines. This is important because once you paint, you can't erase the pencil lines."
6. Put the timer on for 10 minutes of quiet time for the drawing step. Walk around and help anyone who's struggling.

Warm Up



- Next is a warm-up with the watercolors to practice the wet-on-wet technique and painting around an area. We work on scrap watercolor paper, about 3" x 4". Now it's time to "wet out" the liquid watercolors in blue, turquoise, green, violet, and black.
- Add a little water to each.
- Draw the number 8 with my Sharpie. I paint a line of just water around one side of the 8.
- Fill in that side of the paper with water.
- Dip your brush in the watercolor and add the paint to the watery area.
- Rinse your brush, wipe it on the side of the water container, and try a different color. See how the colors mix on the paper.
- Do the other side of the 8 the same way. Try not to let your brush go into the 8. If you make a mistake, rinse your brush and paint water on the area you don't like. Then dab that area with a clean paper towel.

Painting



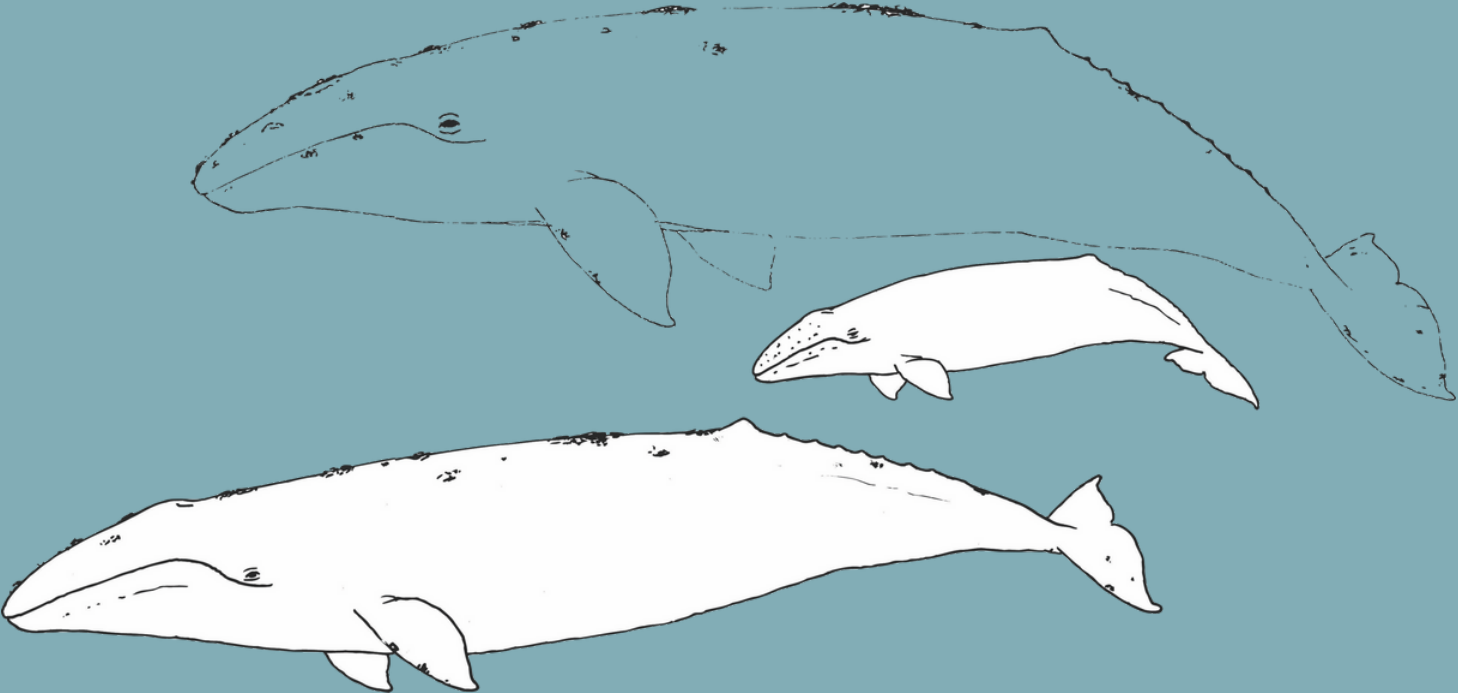
- Now demo the same process with the whale.
- Paint just water along the bottom of the whale, running your brush right up to the line.
- Add a little paint and gently push the paint towards the line.
- Add another color, like the purple here.
- See how the colors mix on the paper.
- Paint all of the ocean around the whale, and leave the whale white.
- When you finish painting, carry your paper to a drying rack, keeping it flat like you're carrying a pizza.

Adding Patterns

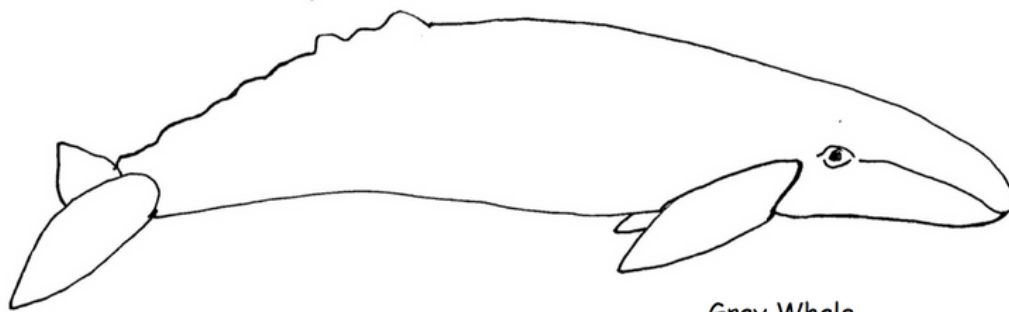
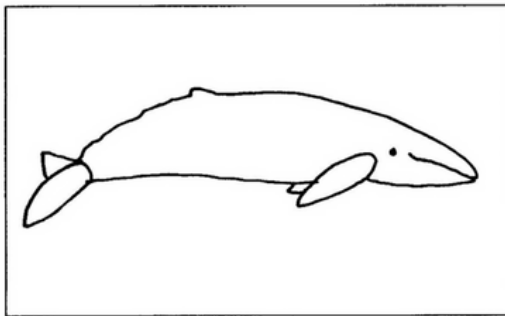
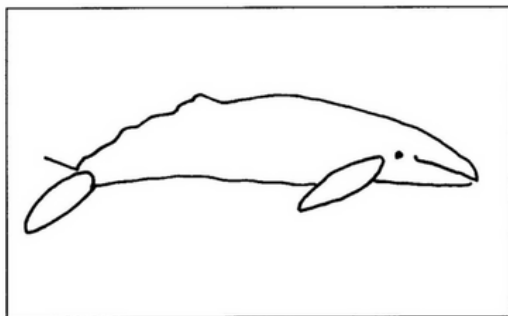
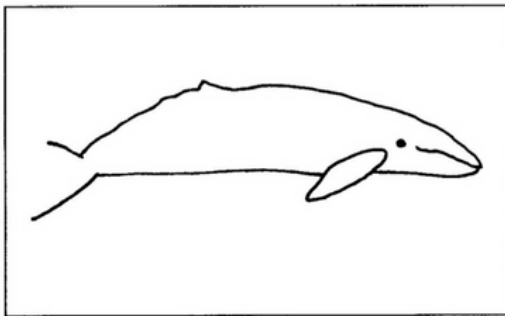
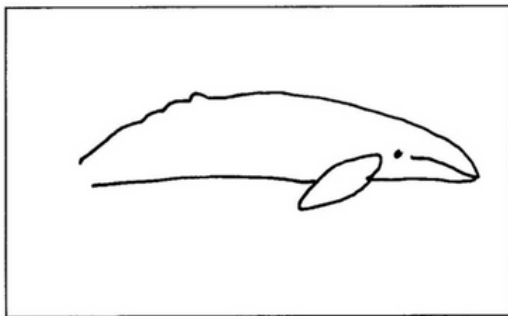
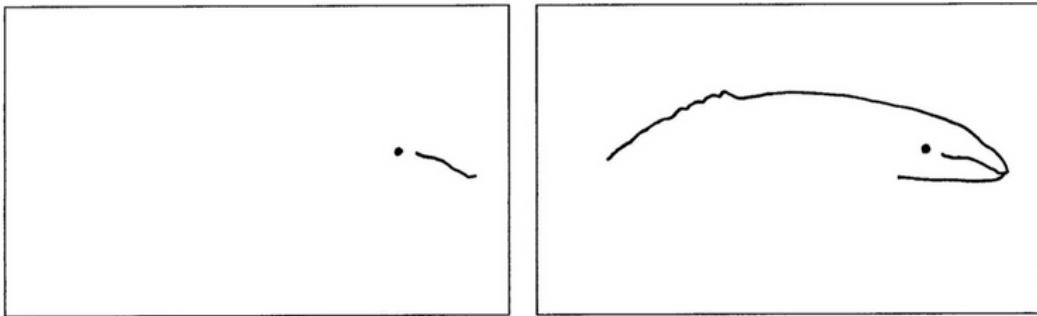


- The next class, when the paintings are dry, practice adding patterns.
- Place copies of the pattern handout (shown here) on the tables.
- Tell the students that you are drawing some waves.
- Draw a curved line from one side to the other, starting above the whale.
- Let your line go off the paper on each side.
- Draw another curved line underneath it, slowing down when you get to the whale.
- Hop over the whale and continue that line to the other side.
- Do this again so you have 5-7 curved lines all the way across.
- Once you have your wavy lines, start with the top layer and draw a pattern. Use the ideas on the handout or come up with your own.
- Challenge your students to come up with at least one original pattern.
- Then move to the layer below it and fill it in with a new pattern. You can do this for each layer.

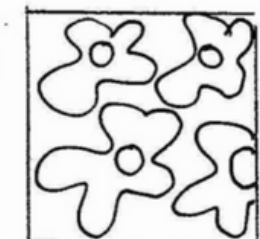
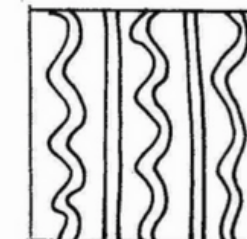
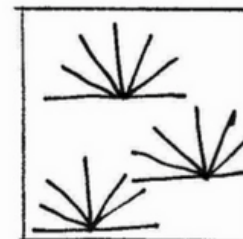
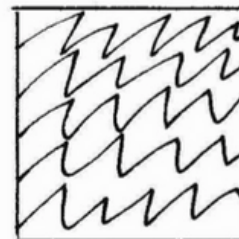
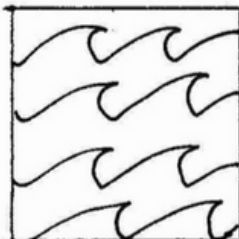
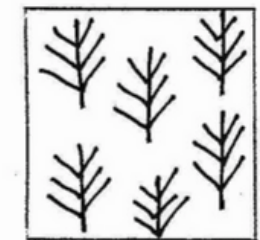
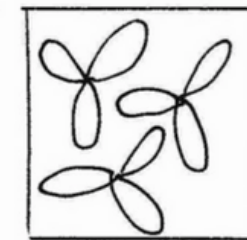
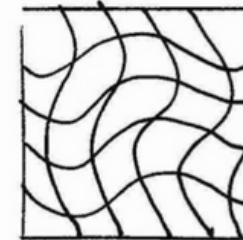
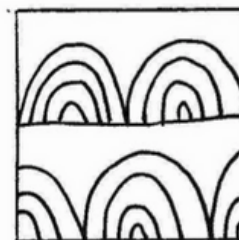
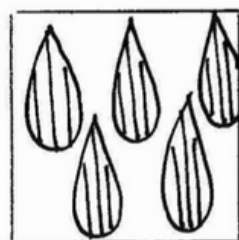
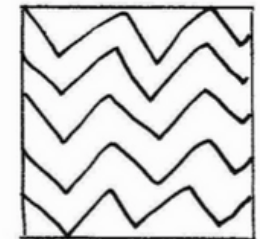
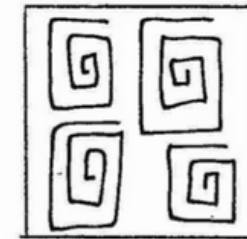
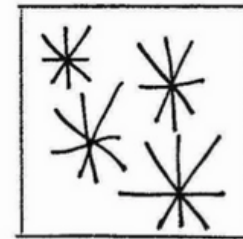
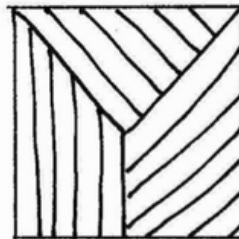
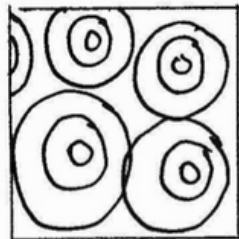
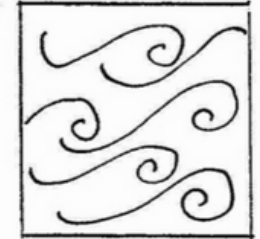
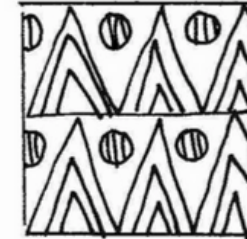
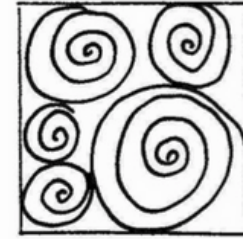
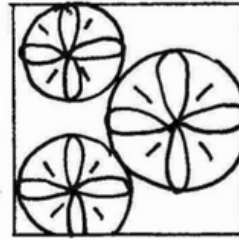
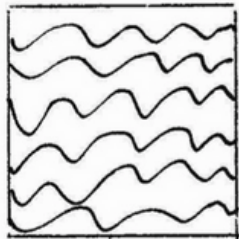
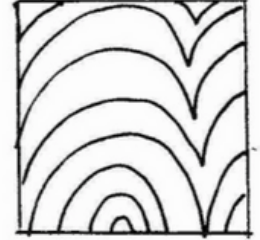
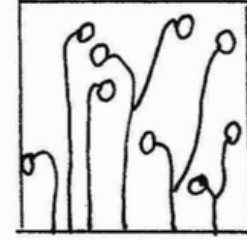
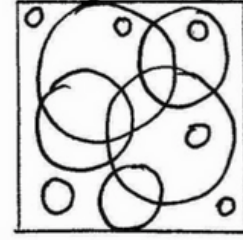
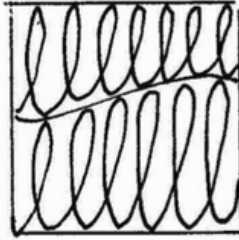
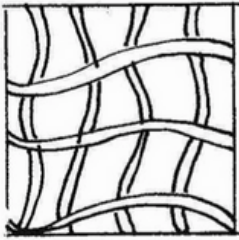
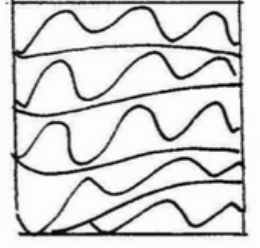
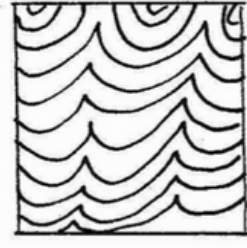
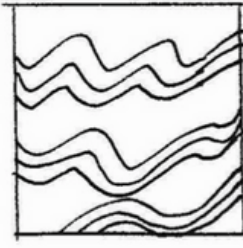
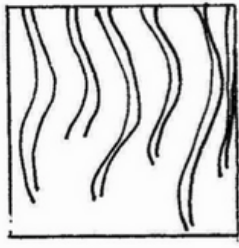
Wyland's Gray Whales



Gray Whale Steps

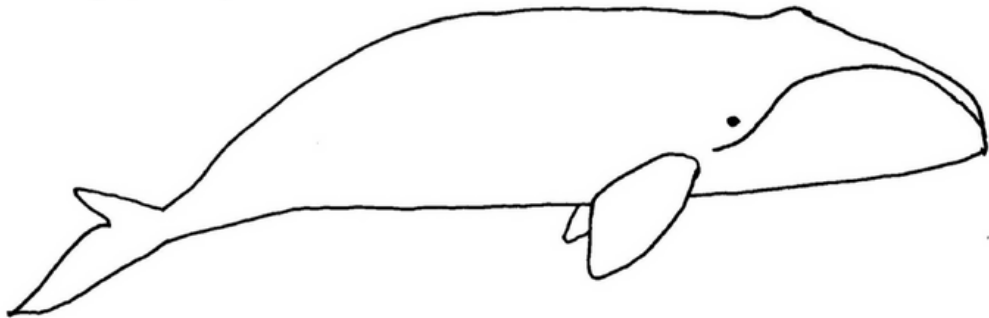


Gray Whale

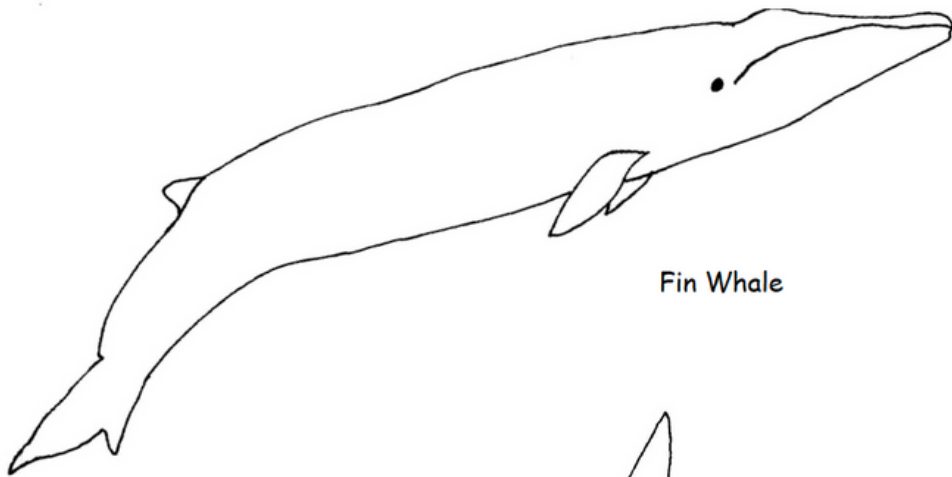


Try These Other Whales

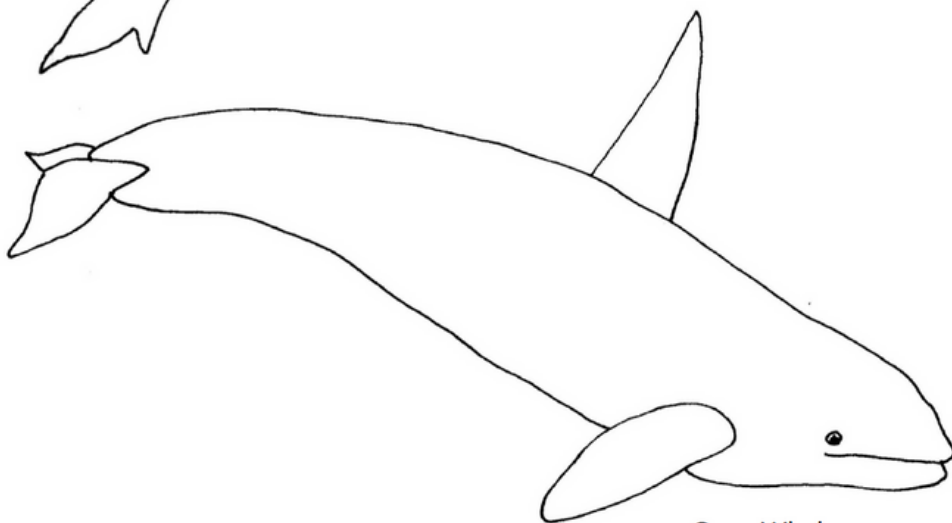
Bowhead Whale



Fin Whale



Orca Whale



Learn more at
www.wylandfoundation.org

Special thanks to Ruth Chapman Art and Teachers Pay
Teachers for providing additional content