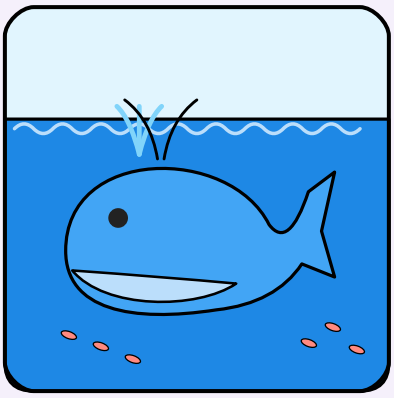
The Mighty Blue Whale

Name: _____ Date: _____



The blue whale is the biggest animal alive today. Scientists think it may be the largest animal that has ever lived. An adult can grow to about 100 feet long, longer than two school buses parked end to end, and it can weigh as much as 25 elephants.

Even though it lives in the ocean, a blue whale is not a fish. It is a mammal, just like you. It breathes air through two blowholes on top of its head. When it breathes out, a tall spout of misty air shoots into the sky. Mother whales feed their babies, called calves, with milk.

This giant eats some of the smallest animals in the sea. Its main food is krill, tiny shrimp-like animals about two inches long. Instead of teeth, a blue whale has baleen, long plates that work like a strainer. The whale gulps a huge mouthful of water and krill, pushes the water out through the baleen, and swallows the krill. In one day, it can eat about 4 tons of them!

1 WHAT? **What is a blue whale's main food?**

seaweed krill sharks

2 HOW? **How does a blue whale breathe?**

through gills through its baleen through two blowholes

3 **Draw a line from each word to its meaning.**

mammal	tiny shrimp-like sea animals
calves	long plates that strain food from water
baleen	an animal that breathes air and feeds its babies milk
krill	baby whales

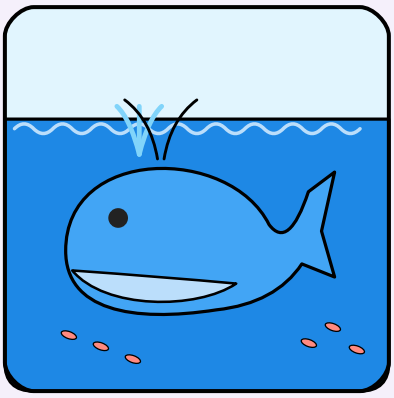
4 WHY? **Why is a blue whale not a fish? Give one clue from the text.**

_____

_____

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Answer Key



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