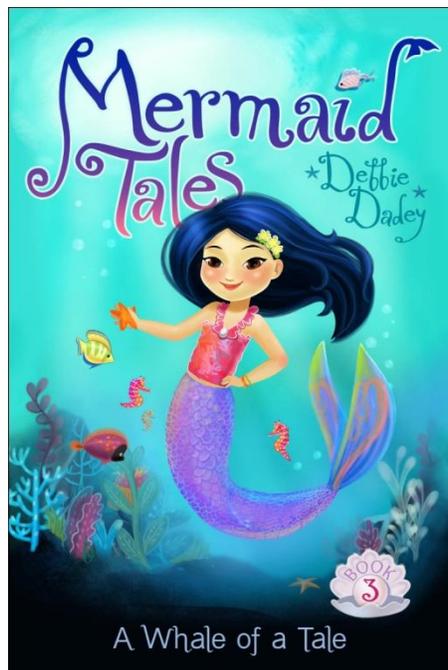


MERMAID TALES

A Teaching Unit

A Whale of a Tale



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www.debbiedadey.com and Facebook.com/debbiedadey

Other books in the Mermaid Tales series include:

Trouble at Trident Academy

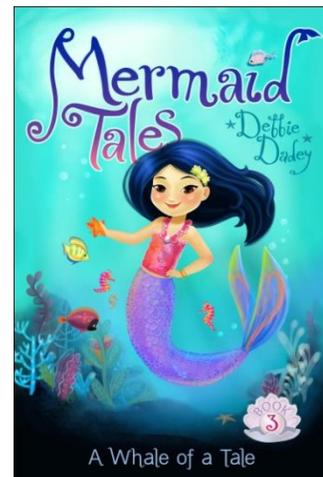
Battle of the Best Friends

Danger in the Deep Blue Sea

A Whale of a Tale is published by Simon and Schuster, 2012

MERMAID TALES

A WHALE OF A TALE



Book Summary:

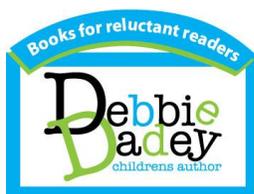
Shelly and Echo were excited about their ocean trip to visit Humpback Whales, but Kiki was terrified. After all whales are the biggest creatures that have ever lived, one swipe of their tail and they'll all be dead. Kiki was already scared, but when the unthinkable happens to Shelly and Echo, will Kiki be able to save them?

Meet the author:



Debbie Dadey was born in Morganfield, Kentucky on May 18, 1959. She grew up in Henderson, Kentucky and skied on the Ohio River in Ski Shows, but she didn't see any mermaids when she fell. She graduated with a Masters Degree in Library Science from Western Kentucky University, where she met her husband, Dr. Eric Dadey. Debbie taught first grade before becoming a librarian. Her favorite job is being a writer because she can be home with her children; Nathan, Becky, and Alex. Nathan and Debbie co-authored two books together: *Slime Wars* and *Slime Time*. Debbie lives in Tennessee. Her website is www.debbiedadey.com. She enjoys answering kid's questions on her blog, Debbie Talks, visiting schools, and Skyping with classrooms. Her daughter, Becky, made her a fanpage at Facebook.com/debbiedadey. Debbie hopes you'll like the page!

www.debbiedadey.com



©Debbie Dadey 6/8/11/revised 9/21/15

MERMAID TALES

DEBBIE DADEY BOOKLIST

Here is a selected list of books by Debbie Dadey. For a complete list of titles visit www.debbiedadey.com

Werewolves Don't Go To Summer Camp

The Other Side of Magic

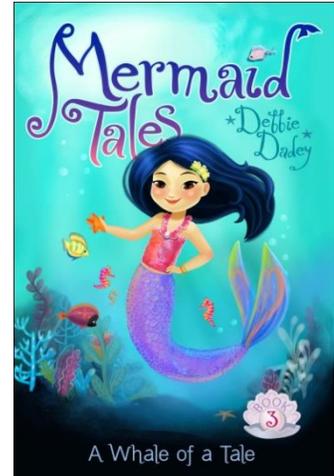
Sea Monsters Don't Ride Motorcycles

The Swamp Monster in Third Grade

This Side of Magic

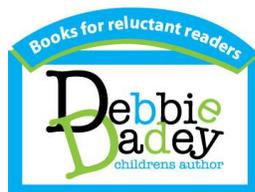
Trouble at Trident Academy

A Whale of A Tale



Pre-reading activities: Before reading **A Whale of a Tale** complete some or all of the activities below to peak interest in the story, as well as to increase comprehension, reading, and predicting skills.

1. Ask students to tell you what they know about whales. Make a chart of all they know. Tell them they are going to read a story where someone swims with whales. Ask them if they think this is possible. Tell them the author's nephew actually did swim with Humpback Whales. Ask them to describe what that might be like.
2. Show students pictures of whales. Ask students to name the whales. Tell them they will be reading a story about a whale named Orman. The name Orman means mariner or shipman. Ask students why the author chose that name. Ask students to look at names and their meaning (a baby name book is helpful) and find another name that it perfect for a whale.



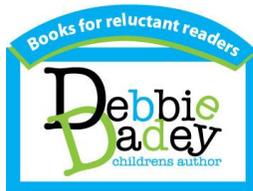
MERMAID TALES

Pre-reading activity

Name:	Date:
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Anticipation Guide for A Whale of A Tale

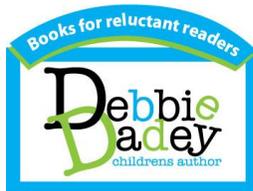
Agree	Disagree	Statement
_____	_____	1. Whales are dirty animals.
_____	_____	2. Whales serve no useful purpose.
_____	_____	3. Whales are affectionate animals.
_____	_____	4. Whales are stupid animals.
_____	_____	5. Whales can be trained to do tricks.
_____	_____	6. Whale babies are called calves.
_____	_____	7. Whales can sing.
_____	_____	8. Whales live in every ocean, except the polar seas.
_____	_____	9. Whales can have two blow-holes.
_____	_____	10. Whales can jump out of the water.
_____	_____	11. Whales groups are called pods.
_____	_____	12. Whales travel great distances.
_____	_____	13. Humpback whales are endangered.



MERMAID TALES

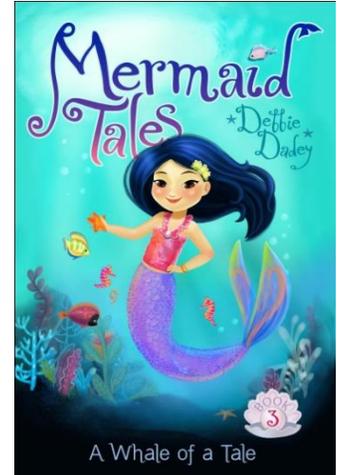
STUDENTS CAN REFLECT ON THEIR ANSWERS AFTER READING THE STORY Anticipation Guide for A Whale of A Tale

Agree	Disagree	Statement
_____	_____	1. Whales are dirty animals. They do have barnacles.
_____	_____	2. Whales serve no useful purpose. Even whale poop is good for the environment. It stimulates the growth of tiny marine plants - phytoplankton - which absorb CO2 during photosynthesis.
_____	_____	3. Whales are affectionate animals. Yes, they have been known to be friendly. But it's important to remember they are wild!
_____	_____	4. Whales are stupid animals. No, sperm whales have the biggest brains in the world and are thought to be smart.
_____	_____	5. Whales can be trained to do tricks. Humpbacks do tricks like breaching on their own. Killer whales can be trained, but they are not real whales.
_____	_____	6. Whale babies are called calves. Yes
_____	_____	7. Whales can sing. yes
_____	_____	8. Whales live in every ocean, except the polar seas. Beluga whales live in the Arctic.
_____	_____	9. Whales can have two blow-holes. yes
_____	_____	10. Whales can jump out of the water. yes
_____	_____	11. Whales groups are called pods. yes
_____	_____	12. Whales travel great distances. yes
_____	_____	13. Humpback whales are endangered. yes



FUN WAYS TO LEARN VOCABULARY WORDS FOR A WHALE OF A TALE.

- Let students decorate their own 'whale' boxes. Give them note cards to write the vocabulary words on. Each box needs a blow hole big enough for cards to come out. Put students in pairs. Let students 'breach' with their boxes. For each breach, students can take out one card and say the word and its meaning. The first group to finish first is the big whale winner!
- Let students go on a word search for one minute in A Whale of a Tale to fill up the bookmark on the following page. Let them share their words.
- Best word contest: Students are assigned a word and must make a poster telling why their word is the best.
- Let students make their own paper whales and put a vocabulary word on each side. Use them to decorate the classroom door. Upon entering the room students must touch a whale and say a word.
- Have a word race. Call out the word and let students race to find the word in the chapter.



New words To Learn for *A Whale of A Tale*

Chapter 1

Trident	environment	Dialect
Academy	surface	Focus

Chapter 2 and 3

Sushi	grumpy	Dormitory
Octopus	glided	Skeleton

Chapter 4 and 5

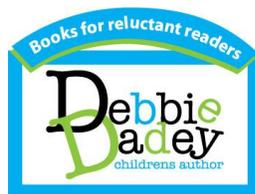
Identification	breech	Vibrated
Submerge	discomfort	Pleasant

Chapter 6 and 7

Nightmares	enormous	Swirled
Flippers	seriously	Invited

Chapter 8 – 11

glint	regret	propelled	Sniffed	Scholarship
permission	decision	descend	Assemble	Disgrace
prestigious	behave	experience	regrettable	Paused



Name

Interesting words I found in



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

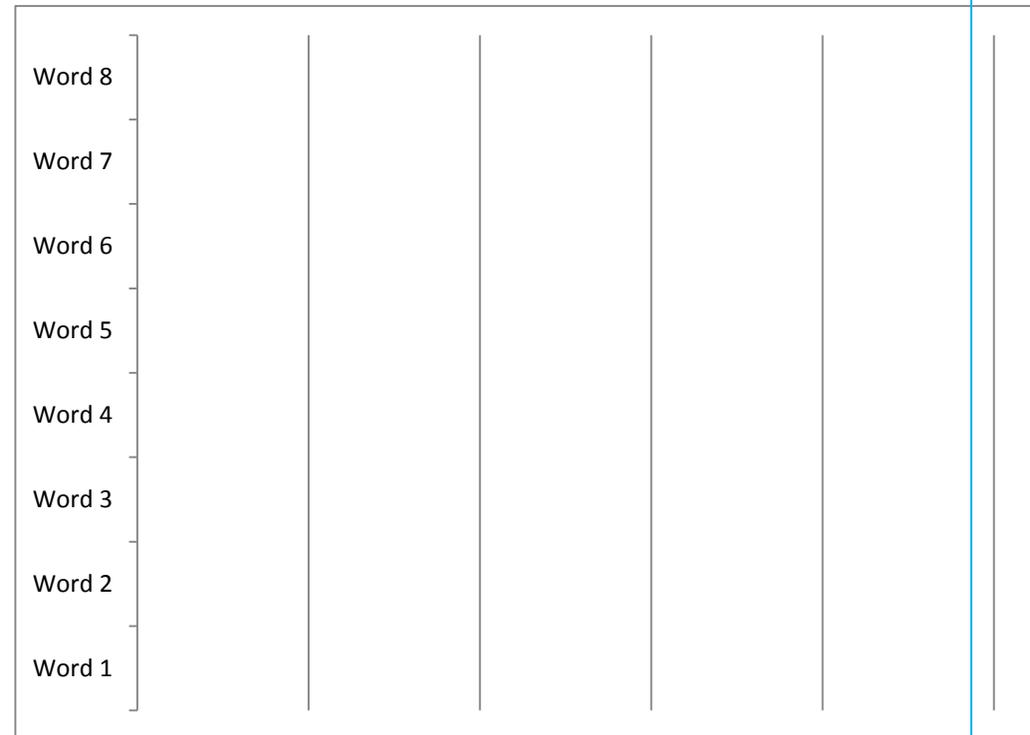
6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

Whale Words!

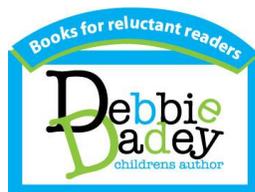
Use the bookmark to find interesting words in the book, **A Whale of A Tale** by Debbie Dadey. Your words should be ones that you don't know or are unusual. Compare your words with your friends and your teacher. Now, do the graph to see which word is the most interesting.



People with my word 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Which word was the most popular? _____

Which word was the least popular? _____



MERMAID TALES

Chapter 1/Different Languages

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

In *A Whale of a Tale*, the merkids find that whales speak a different language than they do. Do you know a different language? If so, share some words with your classmates. Below are some words from different languages. Each word means whale.

Ballena-Spanish	Walvis-Dutch	Balena-Italian
Baleine-French	Wal-German	Baleia-Portuguese

1. Which languages have a word for whale that is similar to the English word?

a. _____ b. _____

2. Name four languages that have a similar word for whale:

a. _____ b. _____

c. _____ d. _____

On the back, list different words that mean mermaid and ocean.

MERMAID TALES

ANSWERS

Chapter 1/Different Languages

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

In *A Whale of a Tale*, the merkids find that whales speak a different language than they do. Do you know a different language? If so, share some words with your classmates. Below are some words from different languages. Each word means whale.

Ballena-Spanish	Walvis-Dutch	Balena-Italian
Baleine-French	Wal-German	Baleia-Portuguese

3. Which languages have a word for whale that is similar to the English word?

b. _____ **Dutch** _____ b. _____ **German** _____

4. Name four languages that have a similar word for whale:

a. _____ **Spanish** _____ b. _____ **French** _____

c. _____ **Italian** _____ d. _____ **Portuguese** _____

On the back, list different words that mean mermaid and ocean. **answers will vary**

MERMAID TALES

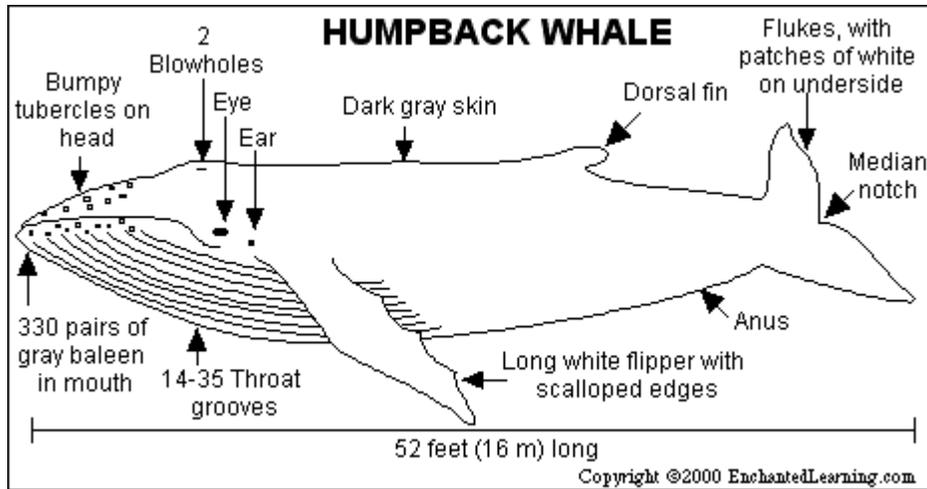
A WHALE OF A TALE

Chapter 2/Biology

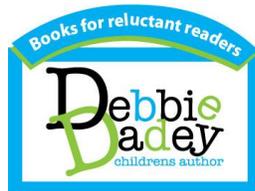
Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Look at the Humpback Whale picture below and answer the following questions.

1. How many pairs of baleen are in a humpback whale's mouth? _____
2. Where are the two blowholes located? _____
3. What color skin do humpbacks have? _____
4. How many teeth do humpbacks have? _____
5. How long do humpback whales grow? _____



Use the back of this page to draw your own whale. Will it be a humpback or another type?



MERMAID TALES

A WHALE OF A TALE

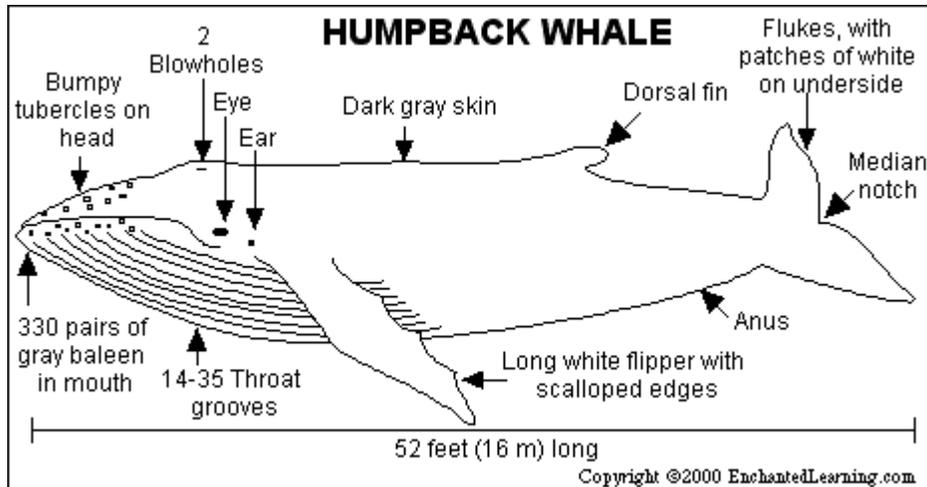
ANSWERS

Chapter 2/Biology

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Look at the Humpback Whale picture below and answer the following questions.

1. How many pairs of baleen are in a humpback whales mouth? 330
2. Where are the two blowholes located? on head
3. What color skin do humpbacks have? dark gray with white on underside
4. How many teeth do humpbacks have? none
5. How long do humpback whales grow? 52 feet



Use the back of this page to draw your own whale. Will it be a humpback or another type?

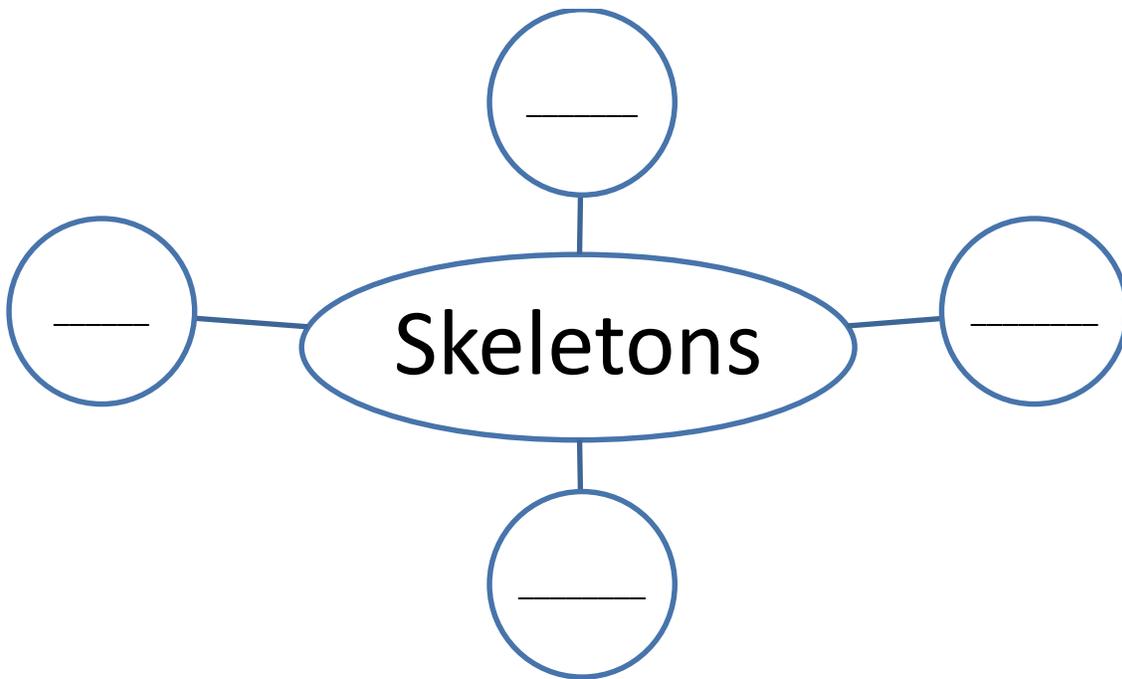
MERMAID TALES

A WHALE OF A TALE

Chapter 3/brainstorming

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

“Skeletons can’t hurt you,” Shelly says, but some people are afraid of them any way. Use the web below to think of silly, scary, or scientific things about skeletons. Put words related to skeletons in the four circles and make four more circles of your own. Use the words to write a silly fiction, scary fiction, or scientific non-fiction story about skeletons on the back of this paper.



MERMAID TALES

A WHALE OF A TALE

Chapter 4/Suffixes

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Circle the suffixes on the words below. Put an X on the one word that does not have a suffix.

gathered	surprised	handed
asked	blurted	fainting
sharply	patted	whispered
immediately	breeching	jumping
kidding	totally	gasped
hopeful	actor	connection
mixing	friendly	learning
developed	experience	frankly
Sticker	catching	saving

MERMAID TALES

A WHALE OF A TALE

Chapter 4/Suffixes

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Circle the suffixes on the words below. Put an X on the one word that does not have a suffix.

Answers-suffixes are in red.

gathered	surprised	handed
asked	blurted	fainting
sharply	patted	whispered
immediately	breeching	jumping
kidding	totally	gasped
hopeful	actor	connection
mixing	friendly	learning
developed	Xexperience	frankly
sticker	catching	saving

MERMAID TALES

A WHALE OF A TALE

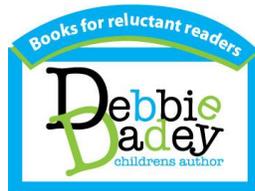
Chapter 5/Pressure

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Did you know that your body is always under pressure? You are used to the air pressure where you live, but if you go up in an airplane, the pressure changes. That is why larger planes adjust the pressure for you so you'll be comfortable. If you do down in the ocean, the pressure changes too. The pressure on your body is greater. When the body is under deep water pressure, it is a bit like a bottle of soda that has been shaken. If the pressure is released too quickly, like going from deep water to the surface, bubbles form in your body and can cause anything from discomfort to severe damage to your body. This is called decompression sickness or the bends. Sea divers who go deep under the ocean must be very careful of this and rise slowly to avoid getting ill.

True or false? Circle the right answer.

Your body is under pressure.	True	False
The water pressure is less on the ocean floor than at the surface.	True	False
Normally you can feel the air pressure on your body.	True	False
You can get sick if you rise too quickly from deep in the ocean.	True	False
Decompression sickness is the same thing as the bends.	True	False
Divers must be careful when coming from deep waters.	True	False



MERMAID TALES

ANSWERS

A WHALE OF A TALE

Chapter 5/Pressure

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Did you know that your body is always under pressure? You are used to the air pressure where you live, but if you go up in an airplane, the pressure changes. That is why larger planes adjust the pressure for you so you'll be comfortable. If you do down in the ocean, the pressure changes too. The pressure on your body is greater. When the body is under deep water pressure, it is a bit like a bottle of soda that has been shaken. If the pressure is released too quickly, like going from deep water to the surface, bubbles form in your body and can cause anything from discomfort to severe damage to your body. This is called decompression sickness or the bends. Sea divers who go deep under the ocean must be very careful of this and rise slowly to avoid getting ill.

True or false? Circle the right answer.

Your body is under pressure.	True	False
The water pressure is less on the ocean floor than at the surface.	True	False
Normally you can feel the air pressure on your body.	True	False
You can get sick if you rise too quickly from deep in the ocean.	True	False
Decompression sickness is the same thing as the bends.	True	False
Divers must be careful when coming from deep waters.	True	False

MERMAID TALES

A WHALE OF A TALE

Chapter 6/Language Arts

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Depending on where you live, you may say things differently. Even though someone is speaking the same language, you may not understand them because of their dialect, or their way of talking. See if you can match up these meanings.

A group of people	Fixin' to
Getting ready to do something	Y'all
Hello	Twixt
Between two places	pop
Carbonated beverages	Howdy
Someone is very happy	chewed up and spit out
Someone who is exhausted	bad penny
A trouble maker	Happy as a clam

MERMAID TALES

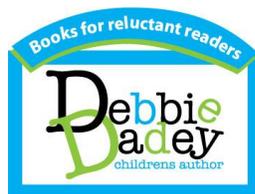
ANSWERS A WHALE OF A TALE

Chapter 6/Language Arts

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Depending on where you live, you may say things differently. Even though someone is speaking the same language, you may not understand them because of their dialect, or their way of talking. See if you can match up these meanings.

A group of people ~~Fixin' to~~
Getting ready to do something ~~Y'all~~
Hello ~~Twixt~~
Between two places ~~pop~~
Carbonated beverages ~~Howdy~~
Someone is very happy ~~chewed up and spit out~~
Someone who is exhausted ~~bad penny~~
A trouble maker ~~Happy as a clam~~



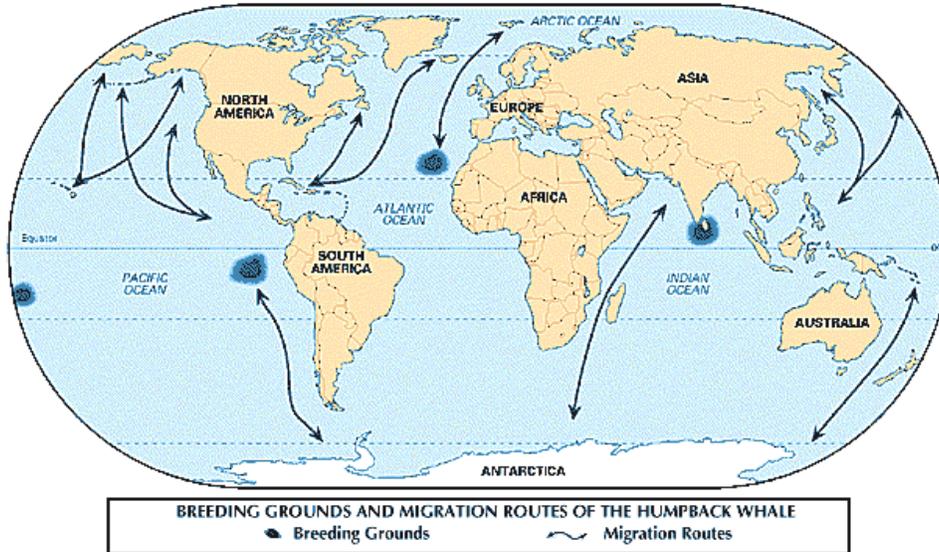
MERMAID TALES

A WHALE OF A TALE

Chapter 7/Migration

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Whales and other animals travel long distances to feed or breed. Name four of these animals on the back of this page. Use the Britannica Map to answer the questions below.



Name four continents near humpback whale breeding grounds.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Name two continents near whale breeding grounds.

1. _____
2. _____

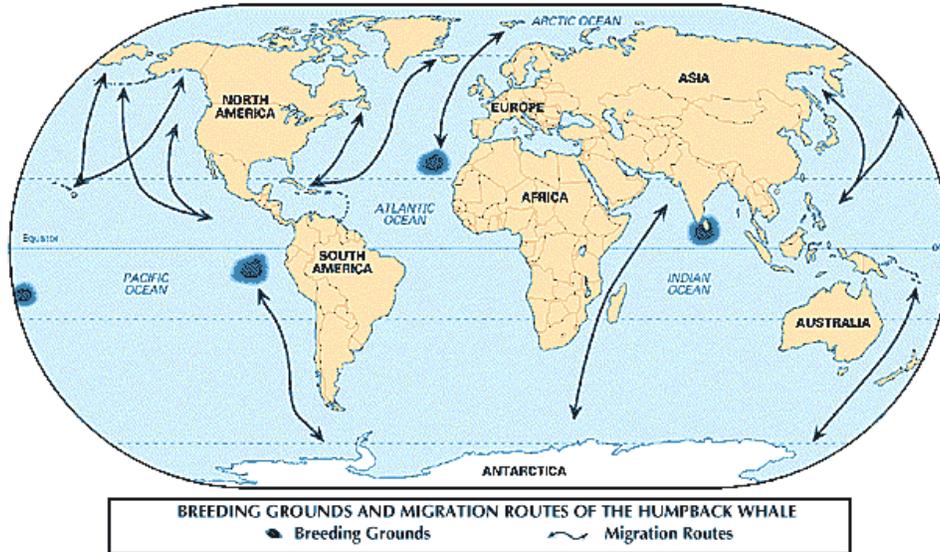
MERMAID TALES

ANSWERS A WHALE OF A TALE

Chapter 7/Migration

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Whales and other animals travel long distances to feed or breed. Name four of these animals on the back of this page. Use the Britannica Map to answer the questions below.



Name four continents near humpback whale migration routes.

1. South America
2. Africa
3. North America
4. Europe, Asia, and Australia are also correct

Name two continents near whale breeding grounds.

1. South America
2. Africa and Asia are both correct

MERMAID TALES

A WHALE OF A TALE

Chapter 8/measuring weight

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

The basic units of weight are different in different countries. Answer the questions below

System used in the United States	Metric System, used by many countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grain• Dram (equals 27, 34375 grains)• Ounce (oz.) (equals 16 drams)• Pounds(lb.) (equals 16 ounces)• Short ton (equals 2,000 pounds)• Long Ton (equals 2,240 pounds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• milligram (mg)• centigram (cg) (equals 10 milligrams)• decigram (dg) (equals 10 centigrams)• gram (g) (equals 10 decigrams)• dekagram (dag) =10 g• hectogram (hg) =10dag• kilogram (kg) =10 hg• metric ton (t).=1.000 kg (equals 2,2046pounds)

1. What system of measuring weight has kilograms? _____
2. How many ounces make a pound? _____
3. How many pounds make a short ton? _____
4. Find out how much a humpback whale can weigh in tons.
5. Many people consider the Metric System to be much easier than the US System. Why do you think they think this? _____
6. Several years ago there was a real push to get US citizens to use the metric system, but many didn't like the idea. On the back tell why you think they didn't want to change.

MERMAID TALES

ANSWERS A WHALE OF A TALE

Chapter 8/measuring weight

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

The basic units of weight are different in different countries. Answer the questions below

System used in the United States	Metric System, used by many countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grain• Dram (equals 27, 34375 grains)• Ounce (oz.) (equals 16 drams)• Pounds(lb.) (equals 16 ounces)• Short ton (equals 2,000 pounds)• Long Ton (equals 2,240 pounds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• milligram (mg)• centigram (cg) (equals 10 milligrams)• decigram (dg) (equals 10 centigrams)• gram (g) (equals 10 decigrams)• dekagram (dag) =10 g• hectogram (hg) =10dag• kilogram (kg) =10 hg• metric ton (t).=1.000 kg (equals 2,2046pounds)

1. What system of measuring weight has kilograms? metric
2. How many ounces make a pound? 16
3. How many pounds make a short ton? 2,000
4. Find out how much a humpback whale can weigh in tons. 30 to 50 pounds
5. Many people consider the Metric System to be much easier than the US System. Why do you think they think this? answers will vary, but hopefully they will understand that the metric system is based on tens
6. Several years ago there was a real push to get US citizens to use the metric system, but many didn't like the idea. On the back tell why you think they didn't want to change.

MERMAID TALES

A WHALE OF A TALE

Chapter 9/punctuation and dreams

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Echo and Shelly really want to ride Orman the whale. On the back of this paper write 10 things you wanted to do in your lifetime. Fix the sentences below.

1. save us from what kiki asked
2. bubbles swirled all around ormand and the girls
3. you re luck orman was able to stop when he did
4. if you don t do it you ll regret it for the rest of your life shelly said
5. kiki looked at echo s hand and made her decision
6. he s very gentle
7. oh me too shelly said
8. you could have been killed kiki yelled
9. but we don t need saving

MERMAID TALES

ANSWERS A WHALE OF A TALE

Chapter 9/punctuation and dreams

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Echo and Shelly really want to ride Orman the whale. On the back of this paper write 10 things you wanted to do in your lifetime. Fix the sentences below.

1. “Save us from what?” Kiki asked.
2. Bubbles swirled all around Orman and the girls.
3. “You’re lucky Orman was able to stop when he did.”
quotes are not necessary on the previous sentence
4. “If you don t do it you’ll regret it for the rest of your life,” Shelly said.
5. Kiki looked at Echo’s hand and made her decision.
6. He’s very gentle.
7. “Oh me too,” Shelly said.
8. “You could have been killed!” Kiki yelled.
9. But we don’t need saving.

MERMAID TALES-CHALLENGE

A WHALE OF A TALE

Chapter 10/ science

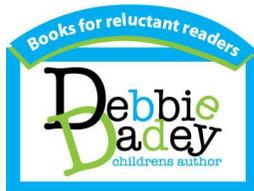
Name:	Date:
-------	-------

- Whales are mammals and so are you! Mammals are warm-blooded creatures with four limbs and backbones. There are over four thousand types of mammals and whales are the largest. Use books to find the answers to the questions below.

1. What is the largest land mammal? _____
2. What is the tallest land mammal? _____
3. What is the fastest mammal? _____
4. In Australia, there are eight of this mammal for every person. _____
5. What is the mammal that can live the longest? _____
6. This full grown mammal can eat thirty pounds of bamboo in one day!

7. What feline mammal became extinct 11,000 years ago?

8. The loss of sea ice is endangering this mammal. _____
9. This is the heaviest land mammal in North America. _____



MERMAID TALES

Answers A WHALE OF A TALE

Chapter 10/ science

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

- Whales are mammals and so are you! Mammals are warm-blooded creatures with four limbs and backbones. There are over four thousand types of mammals and whales are the largest. Use books to find the answers to the questions below.
 - What is the largest land mammal? African elephant
 - What is the tallest land mammal? giraffe
 - What is the fastest mammal? cheetah
 - In Australia, there are eight of this mammal for every person. kangaroos
 - What is the mammal that can live the longest? humans on land/whales in the water
 - This full grown mammal can eat thirty pounds of bamboo in one day!
giant panda
 - What feline mammal became extinct 11,000 years ago?
saber-toothed tiger
 - The loss of sea ice is endangering this mammal. Polar bear
 - This is the heaviest land mammal in North America. bison

MERMAID TALES

A WHALE OF A TALE

Chapter 10/ science

Name: _____	Date: _____
-------------	-------------

Fill out the graphic organizer below. Use it to write a report.

Mammal graphic organizer:

- Name: _____
- Color: _____
- Length or Height: _____
- Weight: _____

Special Things about my mammal:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

My mammal's habitat:

- Where does it live? _____
- What does it eat? _____
- Does it live alone or with a group? _____