HAWAIIAN
ISLANDS
HUMPBACK
WHALE
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

ACTIVITY BOOK
The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary lies within the shallow, warm waters surrounding the main Hawaiian Islands and is one of the world’s most important humpback whale habitats. Hawai‘i is the only place in the United States where humpback whales mate, calve, and nurse their young. Every year, from November to May, more than half of the North Pacific humpback whale population migrates nearly 3,000 miles to the warm protected waters of Hawai‘i. During whale season it is common to see humpback whales resting near shore or performing acrobatic displays that can be seen from miles away. In the spring and summer, humpback whales return to feed in the cool, nutrient-rich waters near Alaska and other northern areas. The sanctuary helps protect Hawai‘i’s ocean wilderness through research, education, conservation and stewardship.

Explore fun games and activities and learn more about humpback whales and the sanctuary online at:

http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov
Scientists identify individual humpback whales by studying their tails, which are also known as flukes. The scalloping, color patterns, and scars on the undersides of the flukes are as unique as your fingerprints.

Match the numbered flukes on the left with the same flukes on the right.
Whales are often seen leaping from the water (breaching) or slapping the surface of the water with their pectoral fins and flukes. These behaviors may serve a number of social functions. Whales may engage in these behaviors to communicate to other whales, to check out what is going on above the surface, or to simply play. If you are ever in a boat or swimming and see a whale exhibiting these behaviors, be sure not to get closer than 100 yards. Whales are protected by law, and we should be especially careful not to disturb them in a whale sanctuary, where they have come to give birth to their young.
North Pacific Humpback Whale

Connect the dots to complete the humpback whale.

Exhalation/spout
Dorsal Fin

Sensory tubercles (hair follicles)
Blowhole

Barnacles
Scalloped fluke edge
Fluke notch
Scars from attacks
Caudal peduncle

Ventral pleats

Pectoral fins longer than any other whale
North Pacific humpback whales feed in the cool, nutrient-rich waters near Alaska and other northern areas during the summer months and migrate south in winter to mate, calve and nurse their young. The exact route of approximately 3,000 miles is unknown. The open ocean poses many hazards such as collisions with vessels, entanglement in marine debris, and attacks by predators.

Find a migration route from the waters off Alaska to the protected waters of Hawai’i.
Whales, dolphins, and porpoises are part of a group of mammals called cetaceans. There are about 80 different species of cetaceans in the world. Humpback whales (also known by their scientific name, Megaptera novaeangliae) are one of the more easily recognized cetaceans in Hawaiian waters. Don’t forget that Hawaiian waters also provide habitat for numerous other marine species including Hawaiian monk seals, green and hawksbill turtles, many species of fish, and coral reef inhabitants. Some of these are found nowhere else in the world.

Connect the cetaceans shown below with their names to learn what other species may be found in Hawai’i.

a. sperm whale
   *Physeter macrocephalus*

b. short-finned pilot whale
   *Globicephala macrorhynchus*

c. bottlenose dolphin
   *Tursiops truncatus*

d. false killer whale
   *Pseudorca crassidens*

e. spinner dolphin
   *Stenella longirostris*
Watching Hawai'i’s Humpback Whales

Humpback whales display a wide variety of behaviors while in the waters off Hawai‘i. Can you identify the various humpback whale behaviors below?

Tail Slap  Head Slap  Breach
Peduncle Slap  Spy Hop  Pec Slap

1

2

3

4

5

6
Humpback Quiz

Answer the following questions with true or false. Can you explain your answers?

1. Whales are fish because they live in the ocean.  
2. Humpback whales live in Hawaiian waters all year long.  
3. Pec slapping may be a way that whales communicate.  
4. Humpback whales come to Hawai‘i to feed.  
5. The flukes of every humpback look the same.  
6. Whales are protected by laws.  
7. Humpback whales have hair follicles just like other mammals.  
8. Whales do not play. They are very serious animals.  
9. You must stay at least 100 yards away from a humpback whale.  
10. North Pacific humpback whales migrate over 6,000 miles every year.

T or F

Can you explain your answers?
1. Breach  
2. Spy Hop  
3. Pec Slap  
4. Peduncle Slap  
5. Head Slap  
6. Tail Slap

Answer: 1. False. Whales are mammals. 2. False. They migrate to Hawaii in the winter. 3. True. As well as other social functions. 4. False. Most humpbacks feed in the colder waters off Alaska. 5. False. Humpback tail flukes are unique to each individual. 6. True. 7. True. 8. Whales, as well as humans engaged in playful activity. 9. True. 10. True. Round trip from Alaska to Hawai‘i is approximately 6,000 miles.