

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will understand the basic characteristics and behaviors of humpback whales, including their habitat, diet, and unique features such as their songs and breaching behavior.

Materials and Prep

- Paper
- Colored pencils or crayons
- A timer (for activities)
- A comfortable space to sit and draw or write
- Knowledge of basic whale facts (to be shared during the lesson)

Activities

• Whale Drawing:

The student will draw a picture of a humpback whale. Encourage them to include details like the whale's long fins and a big tail. After drawing, they can color it in with their favorite colors!

• Whale Song Time:

Explain that humpback whales are known for their beautiful songs. The student can create their own "whale song" by making sounds or humming. They can even make up lyrics about what they think whales might be singing about!

• Whale Facts Quiz:

Prepare a fun quiz where you ask the student questions about humpback whales. For example, "What do humpback whales eat?" or "How long can they hold their breath?" This can be a fun way to recap what they've learned!

• Breaching Behavior Simulation:

Explain that humpback whales often breach, which means they jump out of the water. The student can pretend to be a whale and jump around the room, mimicking the breaching behavior. This will help them understand how whales move in the water.

Talking Points

- "Humpback whales are one of the largest animals on Earth! They can grow up to 50 feet long!"
- "Did you know that humpback whales are famous for their songs? They can sing for hours!"
- "These whales love to eat tiny shrimp and fish. They use a special technique called bubble net feeding to catch their food!"
- "Humpback whales are found in oceans all around the world. They travel thousands of miles every year!"
- "When humpback whales jump out of the water, it's called breaching. It's like they are playing!"
- "Whales are mammals, just like us! They breathe air and take care of their babies."
- "Even though they are huge, humpback whales are gentle giants. They are not dangerous to humans!"