



## ***Teacher's Guide***

### **The Great Whales** **The Living Oceans**

#### **Grade Levels:**

Intermediate  
Junior High  
High School

#### **Subject Areas:**

Biology  
Life Sciences  
Environmental Education

#### **Synopsis:**

Live-action underwater photography captures the lives of several whale species including the blue whale, the Southern right whale, humpback whales, sperm whales and California gray whales. In spite of their great size the whales are shown gulping huge amounts of krill or crustaceans or disturbing amphipods in muddy ocean bottoms. The migratory habits of gray whales are compared with the habitat of the others who tend to stay in Caribbean or southern Atlantic oceans. All of the whales are shown nurturing their young and traveling in communities.

#### **Learning Objectives:** Students will:

- Provide examples of predation in the world's oceans.
- Compare and contrast the feeding habits of five whale species.
- Understand that there are several scientific mysteries concerning the migration and feeding habits of the gray whale.

#### **Vocabulary:**

krill, leviathans, crustaceans, baleen, predation, cavernous, plummets, callosities, copepods, pectoral fins, Humboldt squid, cephalopods, remoras, Cetaceans, crustaceans, amphipods

**Pre-Viewing Discussion:**

What is meant by the term predator or predation?

Are whales predators?

What do whales eat?

What species of whale is the largest?

**Post-Viewing Discussion:**

What unusual behavior is observed in humpback whale populations?

Are whale mothers protective of their calves?

What is the great mystery concerning gray whales and their annual migration?

What is baleen? What is its purpose?

**Further Activities:**

Do further research on any of the species mentioned in this production.

Find out if whale-watching expeditions are harmful to whale communities.

Investigate the behavior of gray whales once they arrive in Arctic oceans.

Find out if there are any legends concerning whales or whale migrations.

**Related New Dimension Media Titles:**

Biological Classification (Series)