

# ORCA CHAT

If you could dive into the water and swim along with a group of orcas, you'd be amazed at the noise you'd hear all around you. That's because orcas "talk" to each other using different sounds.



The three main sounds orcas make are clicks, whistles, and pulsing calls, but they also make popping sounds and jaw claps. They'll even slap their fins or tails against the surface of the water to make loud noises. Some of the sounds can be heard for miles!

Scientists are studying orca talk to try to figure out what it all means.





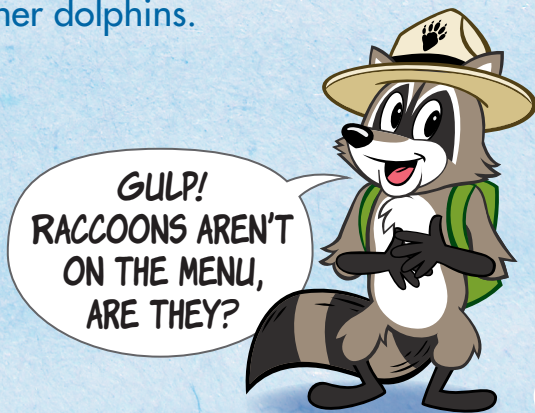
## ON the Hunt

Orcas are sometimes called “killer whales” because they’re such fierce predators. Whether they hunt separately or in a group, they have some clever tricks for catching prey. For example, orcas may swim toward an ice floe with a seal on it in order to make a big wave that knocks the seal off. Or an orca may come right out of the water onto a beach or ice floe in order to grab an unsuspecting seal or penguin.

A group of orcas will herd a school of fish into a tight circle and then whack at the group with their tails. This knocks out the fish so that the orcas can more easily gobble them up.



An orca’s sharp, cone-shaped teeth are perfect for ripping and tearing food. Depending on their ecotype, orcas eat a variety of prey, including seals, fish, penguins, sea turtles, whales, and even other dolphins.



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# Let's Get Ready to Read!

Dear Parents and Educators,

This guide will help your reader explore, examine, and engage with the nonfiction book *Awesome Orcas*. The included activities will strengthen their reading comprehension skills and provide them with opportunities to write and talk about the text. Your reader will delve into the text and analyze it in a more structured and detailed way. Help your reader on their reading journey by working alongside them as they read the book. Ask and answer questions, and offer guidance and support, as needed. Be sure to read through pages 4–5 for helpful instructional ideas.

On this page, you will find information about Blue Star Education's partnership with Ranger Rick and the National Wildlife Federation as well as some fun activities to help foster your reader's love of reading!

## Just 4 Fun!

- Work with other parents or teachers to arrange a book club meeting so your reader can discuss the book with peers. Provide a comfy, cool setting and some yummy treats!
- Set up a book nook! Find a quiet corner. Add a few blankets and pillows. Maybe grab a beanbag chair or poof! Be sure there is a lamp or overhead light and—*voila!*—you have a nifty nook any reader would love.
- Challenge your reader to conduct further research on the topic mentioned in the book. Ask them to display what they have learned from their research in a creative way, such as an infographic, collage, or theatrical skit.

## The Partnership

Blue Star Education's proud partnership with the National Wildlife Federation and Ranger Rick has made possible the creation of products that combine reading, writing, and science in an exciting and unique way meant to help enrich knowledge and appreciation of the natural world.

## The National Wildlife Federation & Ranger Rick

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) strives to unite all Americans to ensure that wildlife thrives in a rapidly changing world. It believes that healthy water, clean air, and public lands are a birthright of all Americans. From the tiniest of insects to the largest of mammals, the NWF wants to ensure the legacy of America's wildlife for future generations.

In January 1967, a new conservationist came on the scene. Knowledgeable, small, and furry, this little leader was ready to foster a healthy and life-long appreciation of nature in children. His name: Ranger Rick! More than 50 years later, Ranger Rick continues to entertain and educate children about the natural world through various media, including the highly successful magazine series.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ACTIVITY 3

# Orca Observations

**Directions:** Look closely at each picture. Then, write a sentence that describes the picture. Use the word above each picture in your sentence.

camouflage




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blowhole




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pod

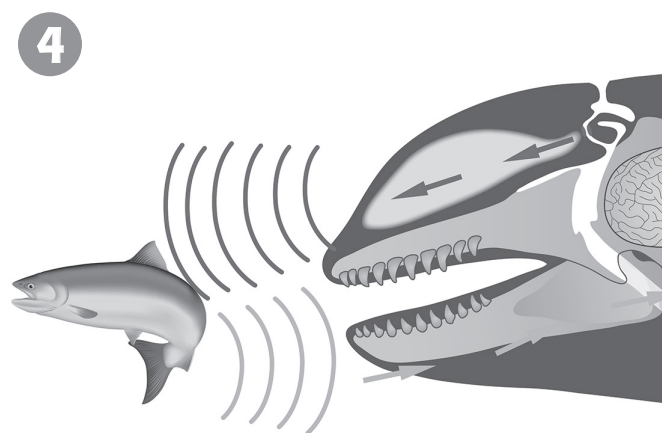



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echolocation




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