



## Blue Whale Fact Sheet

**Common Name:** Blue Whale

**Scientific Name:** Balaenoptera musculus

**Wild Status:** Endangered

**Habitat:** Ocean

**Country:** Worldwide

**Shelter:** Underwater

**Life Span:** 80 years

**Size:** 100 feet long, up to 200 tons

### Details:

At up to 100 feet in length and 200 tons, the blue whale is the [largest animal to ever exist](#). Despite its immense size, it feeds on some of the smallest organisms in the [ocean](#). A [filter feeder](#), it uses [baleen](#) plates in its mouth to filter [krill](#) out of the water column. Blue whales can be found throughout the oceans of the world and are closely related to fin, minke, and humpback whales. Unlike many other [cetaceans](#), blue whales do not often travel in large groups and are usually seen alone or in pairs.

### Cool Facts:

The blue whale is one of the fastest of all whales, with documented speeds of up to 31 miles per hour. A newborn blue whale calf weighs about as much as an adult [hippo](#). Blue whales communicate over long distances using low frequency vocalizations known as [whale song](#). These calls are among the loudest in the animal kingdom at over 180 decibels, which is comparable to a jet engine taking off. Over the course of a single

day, a blue whale may consume up to four tons of krill.

### **Taxonomic Breakdown:**

**Kingdom:** Animalia  
**Phylum:** Chordata  
**Class:** Mammalia  
**Order:** Artiodactyla  
**Family:** Balaneopteridae  
**Genus:** *Balaenoptera*  
**Species:** *B. musculus*

### **Conservation & Helping:**

The blue whale is classified as [endangered](#).

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