

Opening extract from

101 Ways To Save The Earth

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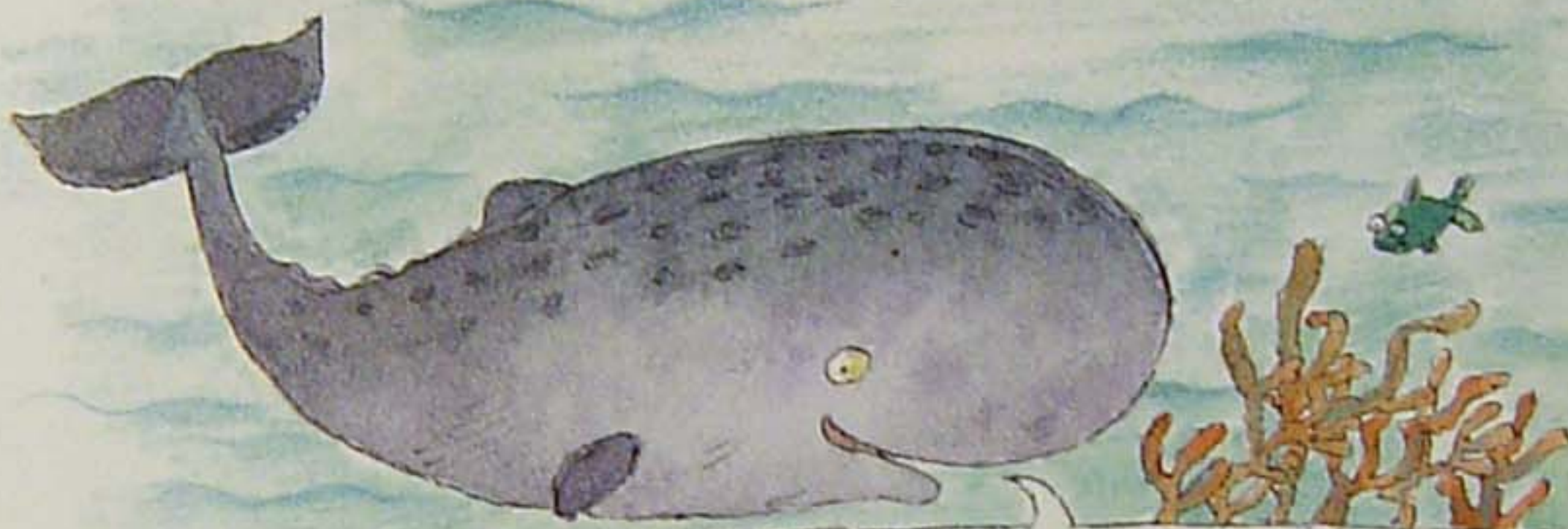
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101

WAYS TO SAVE THE EARTH

DAVID BELLAMY

Illustrated by **PENNY DANN**



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FRANCES LINCOLN

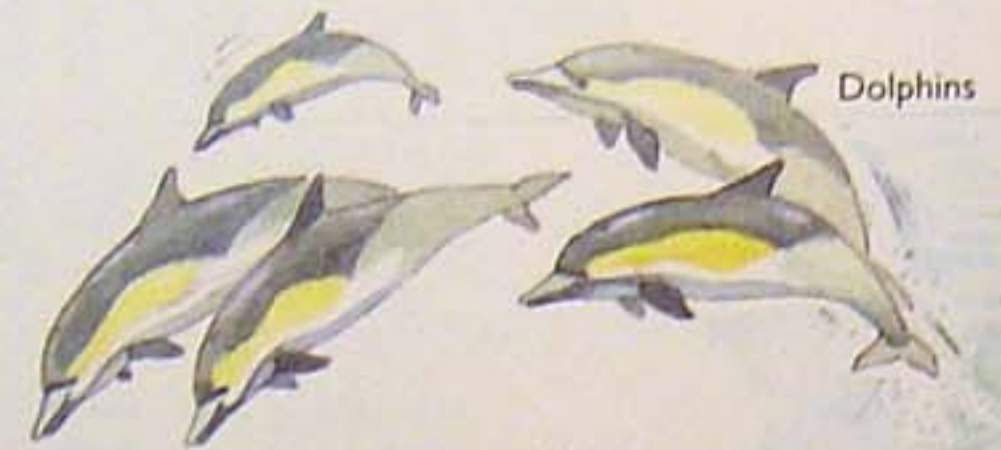


Meet the whales

Whales have lived on Earth for millions of years longer than we have. They live in the oceans, but they are not fish – they are mammals like us. Their babies feed on their mothers' milk.

Whales live in family groups. They talk to each other in high-pitched calls and the humpback whales sing beautiful songs. This page shows how whales live and what they need.

Whales need clean water and plenty of space. Some kinds of whale travel vast distances across the oceans from their feeding grounds to their breeding grounds.



Dolphins

Whales need food to eat. Some toothed whales feed on fish and squid, but killer whales may also eat penguins, seals and even other whales.



Killer whale

Whales need clean air to breathe. They swim to the surface and, as they breathe out, a great plume of mist rises high above the sea.



Blue whale

Whales need to keep warm. Their bodies are covered with a thick layer of fat called blubber.



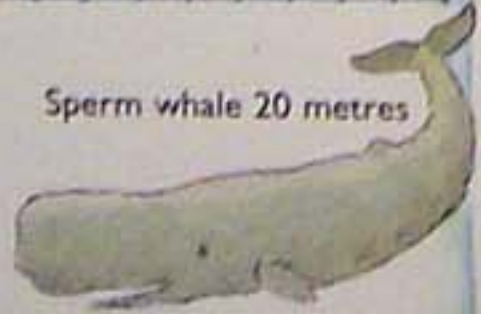
Do you know?

Blue whale 30 metres



If you and your friends lay end to end, it would take 23 of you to match the length of a blue whale.

Sperm whale 20 metres



Humpback whale 18 metres



Porpoise 2 metres



Blue whales feed in the Arctic or Antarctic and swim nearly 20,000 km to warm tropical water to breed. The journey takes 3 months.

Baleen whales, such as this right whale and the blue whale, have bristly plates instead of teeth. As they gulp in huge amounts of sea water, the tiny animals they feed on are caught in the plates.



Right whale

Meet the people

People, like whales, need air to breathe, food to eat, and a way of keeping warm. But there are now so many of us – over six billion – that we are damaging the Earth.

More and more land is used for farming, for roads and for homes. More and more factories use electricity, steel, wood and chemicals to make all kinds of things, from light bulbs to jumbo jets.

These power stations are making electricity by burning coal and oil. Coal, gas and oil are taken from the ground and one day there will be none left.

Factories make the things we use such as clothes, toys, cars and tractors. If they are not run properly, factories can fill the air with dirty smoke and the rivers with dirty water.

Farms cover much of the countryside. The cows in this field are eating grass. We shall drink their milk or it will be made into cheese, butter or yoghurt.

These pylons are carrying electricity to houses, shops, offices and factories.

Cars carry people, and trucks carry goods from place to place. They help us, but they use fuel made from oil and make fumes which pollute the air. They are also noisy, and roads and car parks take up a lot of space.

The wheat growing in these fields will be made into flour, then into bread, cakes, pasta and other food.

What is the environment?

The environment is all the things we need to be able to live – clean water to drink and to wash with, space to live and move about in, fresh air to breathe and food to eat. We could not live without plants and animals. They help to make the soil, they clean the water and the air, and they provide us with all our food.

What is pollution?

Animals, people, cars and factories all produce waste. This is not a problem if the amount of waste is small and it can break down to become a harmless part of the soil, sea or air. But when there is too much waste, or when the waste contains poisons, it pollutes the environment.