

A large, sculpted blue iceberg floats in the foreground on the left, its surface showing various textures and a small cave-like opening. The water is a deep, clear blue, reflecting the sky and the iceberg. In the background, snow-covered mountains rise against a bright blue sky filled with wispy white clouds. The overall scene is a stunning Antarctic landscape.

The Animals of Antarctica

Emperor penguin

Emperor penguins can grow up to 1.2 meters tall (4 ft). That is as tall as an average 7-year-old!

They are only found deep in the coldest parts of Antarctica and huddle together in large groups to stay warm.





Adelie penguin

They have white ring around their eyes, the Adelie's also have stiff wings that can propel them to depths of 100 meters (330 ft) underwater.

Aside from emperor penguins, Adelie penguins are the only true Antarctic penguins, meaning they live there all year long.



Leopard seal

The only seals that kill other mammals for food.

They have long bodies covered in spots (hence the name) and incredibly sharp teeth. As they aren't fond of company, spotting them is a rare treat.

Southern elephant seal

The largest species of seal in the world.

They live in sub-antarctica.

The males can weigh up to 3600 kilograms (four tons, that is the same as 4 small cars!)

They have a large nose called a *proboscis*.

They can hold their breath for more than 100 minutes - longer than any other mammal.



The orca

The Orca (killer whale) is a toothed whale and is the largest member of the Dolphin family.

Orcas are found in oceans all over the world, but mostly in the arctic and antarctica.

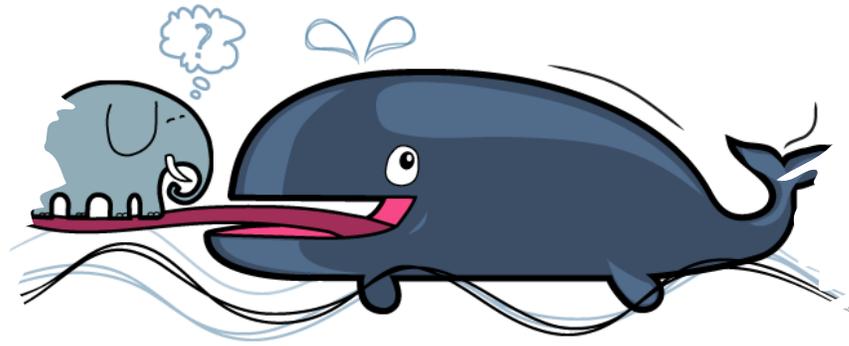
Orcas are carnivorous (meat-eating) predators. They primarily prey upon marine mammals such as seals, sea lions, and even whales - using their sharp teeth that can be four inches (ten centimeters) long.

They are known to grab seals right off the ice. They also eat seabirds, fish, and squid.





Orca whales have lungs they use to get the oxygen they need by breathing air (like humans). But instead of breathing through their mouth, they breathe through their nostrils, called blowholes, located on top of their heads. They can easily breathe through the blowhole without lifting their entire head out of the water.



Blue whales

The largest animals to have ever lived on Earth, blue whales can grow to over 30m long and weigh more than 130,000kg - that's longer than three buses and heavier than three lorries!

Pretty much everything about the blue whale is massive. Its tongue weighs as much as an elephant, its heart is the size of a car and its blood vessels are so wide you could swim through them!



Despite their humongous size, blue whales eat tiny shrimp-like crustaceans called krill.

They eat up to 40 million each day!

To communicate with each other, blue whales make a series of super-loud vocal sounds. Their calls are the loudest of any creature on the planet, in fact, and can be heard underwater for hundreds of kilometers.

