

MISSION SCIENCE WORKSHOP

🐋 WHALE ON WHEELS PROGRAM : POST EXPERIENCE ACTIVITIES 🐋

Students were able to experience our 40 ft Juvenile Gray Whale “Gracie” and put all her vertebrae and rib bones back in her skeleton to form a giant puzzle. Students also learned about comparative anatomy and saw the similarities between a whale’s flipper and a human hand. Students also learned about different types of whales (baleen whales vs toothed whales), whale’s life history: reproduction, migration, feeding habits. And also common causes of death and environmental impacts like overfishing, pollution and boat collisions.

After this experience teachers can show students some of the following resources and also prompt them to write an essay appropriate to their grade level.

Resources: [Gracy’s Dig Out Video](#) (4 min), [Gray Whale Video](#) (3 min) , [Blue Whale Video](#) (4 min), [Whale Evolution](#) (3:23 min)

Writing Prompts (EN):

You can write about your favorite things about Whale Day and respond to any of these questions.

1. What is something you learned about whales you didn’t know before?
2. How do you think Gracie the Gray Whale died and what can we do to help whales?
3. How are the bones in a whale similar to the bones in your body?

Writing Prompts (ES):

Puedes escribir sobre tus cosas favoritas sobre el Día de la Ballena y responder a cualquiera de estas preguntas.

1. ¿Qué es algo que aprendiste sobre las ballenas que no sabías antes?
2. ¿Cómo crees que murió Gracie, la ballena gris, y qué podemos hacer para ayudar a las ballenas?
3. ¿En qué se parecen los huesos de una ballena a los huesos de tu cuerpo?

Vocabulary: Baleen (balénido), blow hole (espiráculo), Baleen Whales (Ballenas Barbudas), Toothed Whales (Ballenas Dentadas), Vertebrae (Vértebras), Ribs (Costillas), Flippers (Aletas), Skull (Cráneo), Evolution (Evolución), Life Cycle (Ciclo de Vida).