

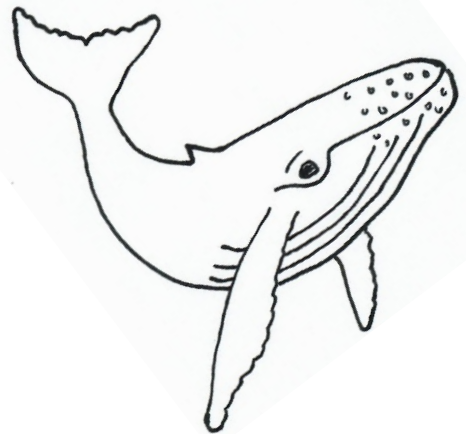


# TAILS & TALES

## Humpback Whale (Koholā)

### **Fun Tail Facts:**

- The peduncle, or whale tail, contains the strongest muscles of any animal on earth.
- Humpback whale tails move up and down to propel them forward through the water.
- The unique pattern found on the underside of a whale's tail flukes are like a human fingerprint and can help us identify the individual whale. No two are alike!



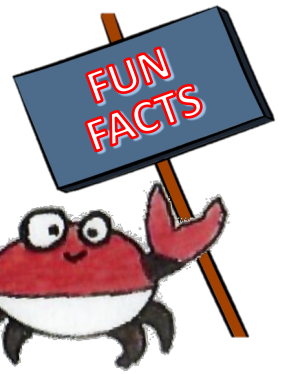
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# Table of Contents

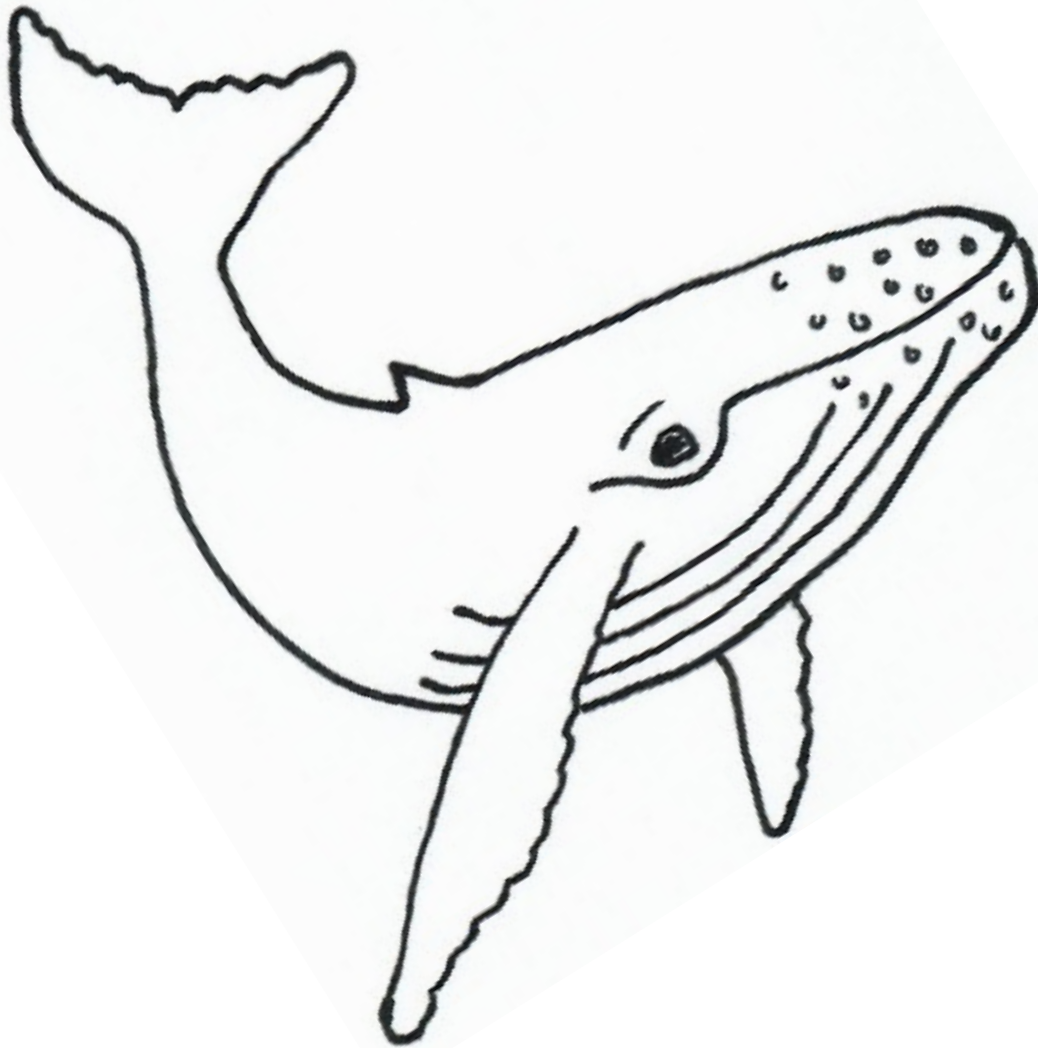
- Fun Facts
- Coloring Pages
- Craft Projects
- Draw the Habitat
- Crossword Puzzle
- Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Virtual Dive
- Video Links
  - Ocean Classroom: SeaKids – Humpback Whale Keiki Style:  
<https://www.facebook.com/waikikiaquarium/videos/860240454794915>
  - Whale Anatomy: <https://oceantoday.noaa.gov/wholeanatomy/>
  - Ocean as a Lab: Whale Tagging:  
[https://oceantoday.noaa.gov/oceanasalab\\_whaletagging/](https://oceantoday.noaa.gov/oceanasalab_whaletagging/)
  - Watch Out for Spouts: <https://oceantoday.noaa.gov/watchoutforspouts/>
  - Whale Disentanglement in the HIHWNMS:  
<https://www.facebook.com/NOAAOfficeofNationalMarineSanctuaries/videos/260210992218100>

# HUMPBACK WHALES



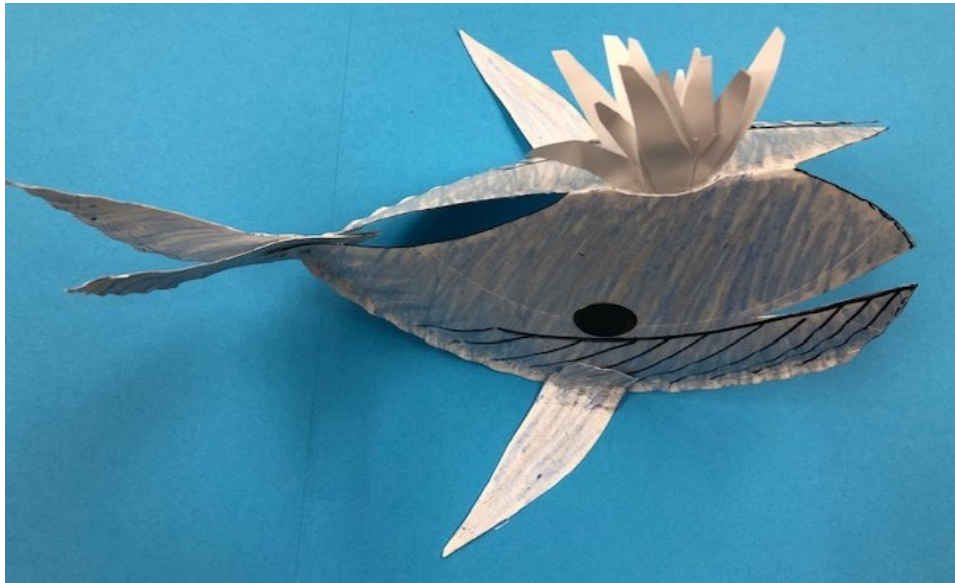
- A humpback whale can jump out of the water as high as 18 feet!
- Humpback whales have belly buttons, just like humans.
- An adult humpback whale is as long as a big yellow school bus, about 45 feet!
- Humpback whales are filter feeders and have baleen plates in their mouths instead of teeth.
- Adult male humpback whales sing songs that can be heard up to 20 miles away!
- When in their cold water feeding grounds, a single humpback whale can eat up to 1.5 tons (about 3,000 pounds) of krill every day.
- During migration, a humpback whale can complete a 3,000 mile trip from Alaska to Hawai'i in approximately 28 days!
- A humpback whale can expand its mouth to hold over 5,000 gallons of sea water.
- An adult humpback whale can weigh more than 5 adult African elephants!
- The humpback whale evolved from 4-legged, even-toed hoofed ancestors that lived on land about 50 million years ago.
- Each fist sized bump, called a tubercle, on a humpback whale's head contains a single hair!
- Humpback whales have the longest appendage of any animal. One pectoral fin can be over 15 feet long!

# Humpback Whale Coloring Sheet



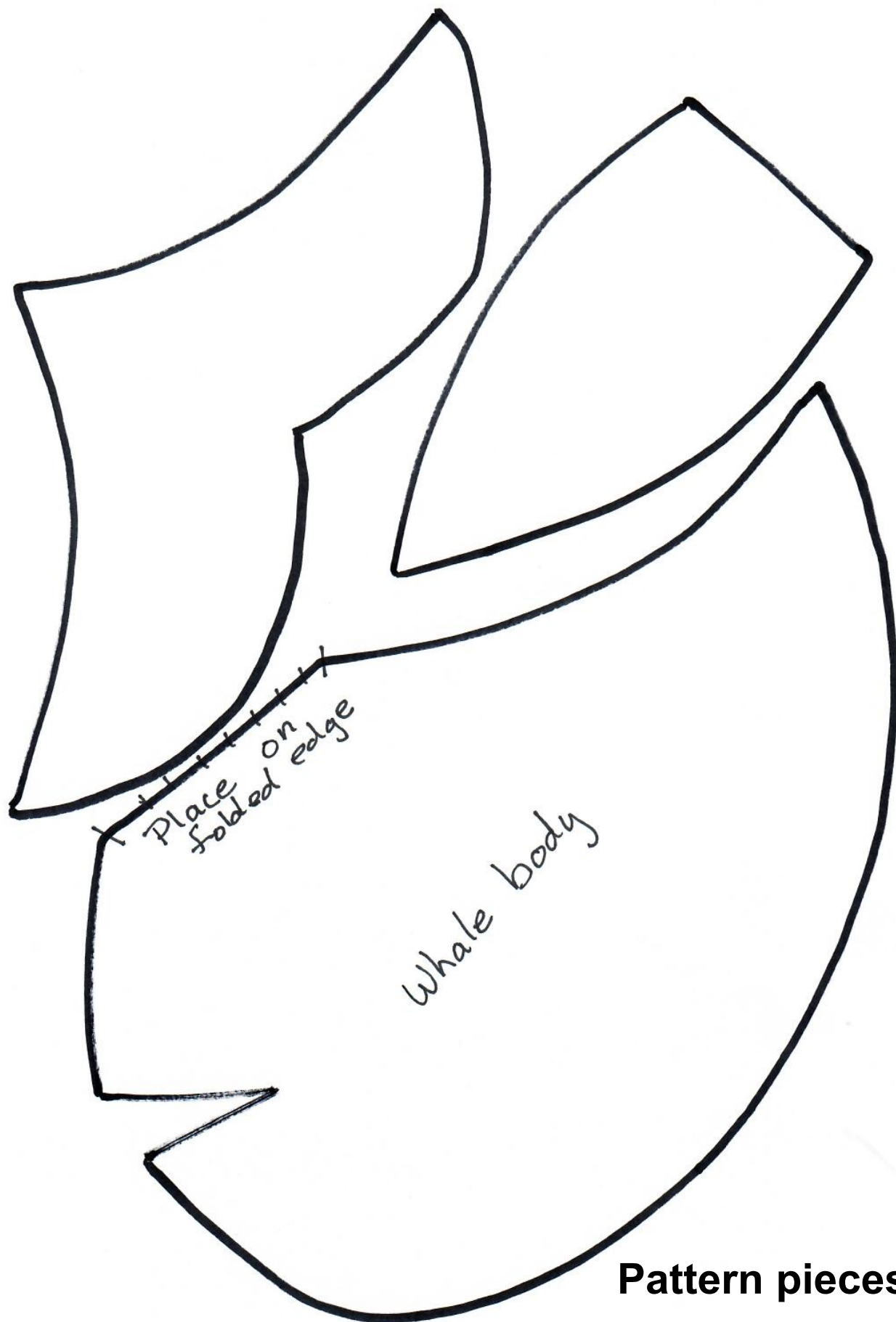
# CRAFT PROJECT

## Humpback Whales



This cute humpback whale is made from a paper plate. The attached page has patterns that you can use to trace onto a paper plate. Fold the paper plate in half. The thinner the paper plate the easier to use. Place the folded part of the pattern on the folded edge of the plate. Cut along the curved edges of the pattern. The left over sections of the paper plate can be used to make the tail and the fins. Make the “blow” for the whale out of paper or pipe cleaners etc. Add the eyes, the lines for the ventral pleats and color your whale.



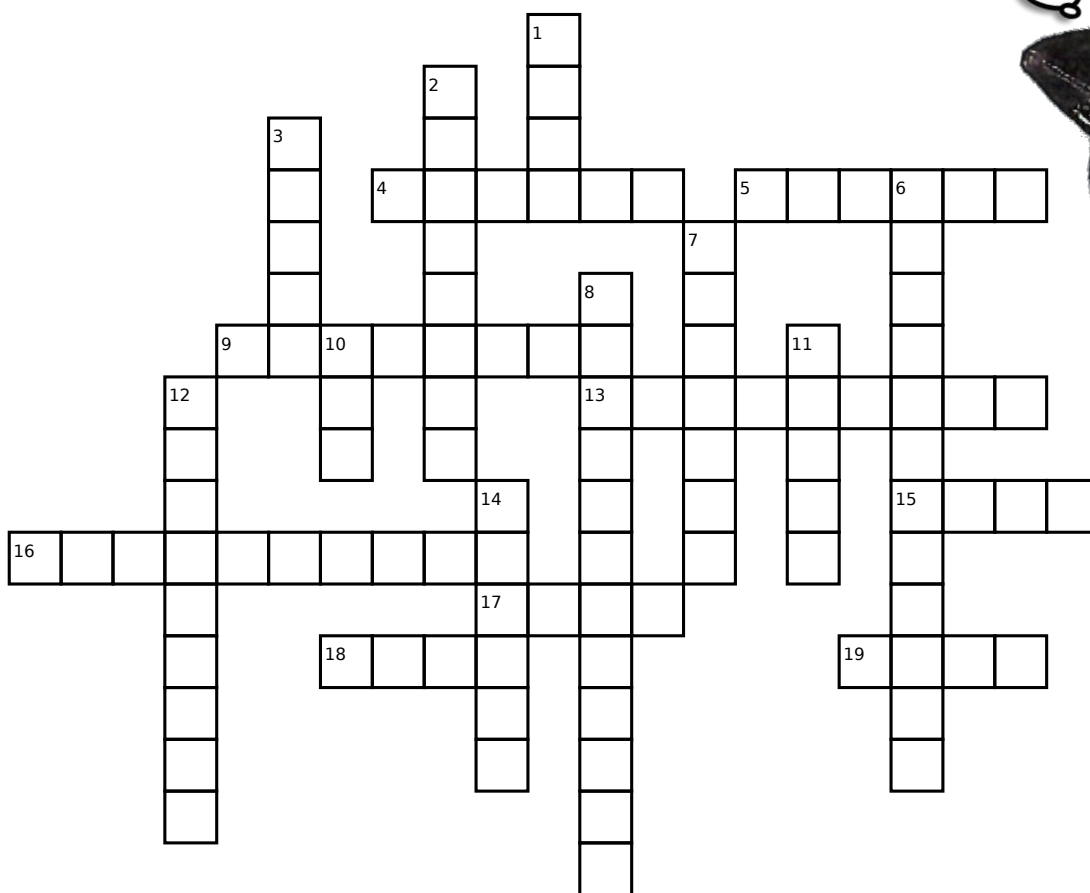


**Pattern pieces for the  
paper  
plate humpback whale.**



# Humpback Whale

**CROSSWORD  
PUZZLE!**



## Down

1. One marine predator of humpback whale calves.
2. This creature is found on a whale's body and usually falls off during migration to the mating grounds.
3. One of the two lobes of a whale's tail.
6. To navigate or find food by making sounds and listening for the echo.
7. The insulating layer of fat on a humpback whale.
8. What happens when a humpback whale gets caught up in marine debris.
10. Number of blowholes found on a humpback whale.
11. The small shrimp-like crustaceans eaten by humpback whales.
12. When a humpback whale moves from its feeding grounds to its mating grounds.
14. Sometimes humpback whales get caught in this.

## Across

4. When most of a humpback whale jumps out of the water.
5. What a humpback whale has in its mouth instead of teeth.
9. The group of mammals that includes whales, dolphins, and porpoises.
13. The fist sized bumps found on a humpback whale's head.
15. What a baby whale is called.
16. Instrument used to listen to and record sounds underwater.
17. The word used to describe a male humpback whale.
18. Made of keratin, one of these sticks out of the tubercles on a humpback's head.
19. Only male humpback whales perform this behavior.

# TAKE A VIRTUAL DIVE IN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK WHALE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Jump into the waters of Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary


**Dive #1:** Watch this video about humpback whales!



**Dive #2:** Read about the significance of Kānaka Maoli –  
Native Hawaiian – culture.



**Dive #3:** Experience a virtual dive with *honu*—green sea turtles—and whitetip reef sharks in this 360° video! Use your computer mouse to rotate around and explore.

\*\*Pair your smartphone with a virtual reality headset or goggles of your choice and click the  for an extra-immersive experience.

**Dive #4:** Name these Hawaiian marine organisms and click to learn more!



Photo: J. Moore/NOAA



Photo: Ed Lyman/NOAA



Photo: Ed Lyman/NOAA



Photo: Ed Lyman/NOAA