



Humpback Whale Facts:

- Are warm blooded mammals who evolved from land mammals 50 million years ago
- Are Baleen whales who filter feed and do not have teeth
- Adults grow to 15m and weigh 40 tones
- Adults lungs are the size of a small car
- Blow reaches 3-5m above the surface
- Adults can hold their breath for up to 40 min
- Migrate 10,000km per year
- Feed on krill in the Antarctic during summer months
- Can eat 2 tone of krill per day
- Calve and mate in tropical waters during winter months
- Do not usually feed on migration, living off their own body fat/blubber
- Calves are 4m long at birth and weigh 1 tone
- New born calves can hold their breath for 5 min
- Calves drink up to 600lt of milk per day from their mothers
- Calves stay with mother for 1 year
- Gestation is 11 months
- Only male humpback whales sing the long mating song
- Singing whales produce sounds of around 170 decibels - like standing behind a jet aeroplane at take off
- Humpbacks have the longest pectoral fins of all cetaceans - up to 5m
- Pectoral fins contain 5 large finger bones
- Humpbacks have hair follicles on their head called tubercles
- Behaviours include: breaching, spyhopping, tail slapping, pectoral slapping, bubble blowing
- Can see well both above and below water
- Have eyes the size of a grapefruit on either side of their head