



Gray Whales

K-3 Classroom Activities

Be a Whale

OBJECTIVE

Students will create a craft to explore the body shape, behavior, and natural history of gray whales.

ACTION

In this activity students make origami whale hats and role-play to explore what it would be like to be a whale. First, You'll make the origami hats. then students wear their hats and roleplay whale behavior as you read them a book about what it would be like to be a whale.

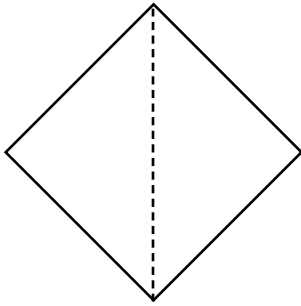
1. Give each student one square sheet of white paper.
2. Follow with directions on the next page to show students how to fold the paper into whale hats.
3. Read the book *Whalewatch!* aloud to your class. Students wear their whale hats and role-play whale behaviors as you read the story.
4. Interested students could create and act out their own story as a whale to the class.

MATERIALS

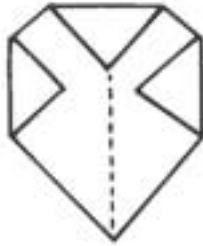
- 30" by 30" white paper squares (butcher paper works best; one square per student, plus one for the teacher)
- staplers and staples (optional)
- *Whalewatch!* by June Behrens (Chicago: Children's Press, 1978) or another book about gray whales

BE A WHALE

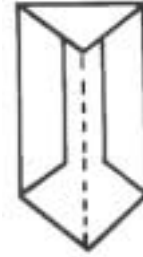
origami whale hat instructions



1. Fold paper in half diagonally, then open.



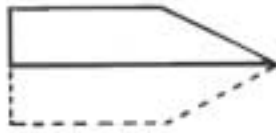
2. Fold in the top three corners, about the length of the palm of your hand.



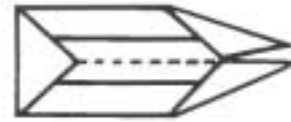
3. Fold both sides in, even with the top fold.



4. Fold up the bottom corners to meet the center line.



5. Fold in half, with the previous folds facing in.



6. Open and tear the pointed end about three inches. Fold again as in #5.



7. Fold the thin end straight up.



8. Open the tip and fold the opposite direction to make the tail.