Raising Big Blue Fill in the Blanks

Answer Key

Select the correct word from the word bank and write it on the line. Not all words will be used!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ship</th>
<th>six</th>
<th>ten</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>palaeontologist</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>flippers</td>
<td>degreaser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Edward Island</td>
<td>half of a million</td>
<td>oxygen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>one thousand</td>
<td>dorsal fins</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Each mouthful of food that a blue whale takes in is approximately **half of a million** calories.

2. Fewer than **ten** blue whales live off the coast of British Columbia today.

3. In 1987 a blue whale washed up on the shores of **Prince Edward Island**.

4. The red clay of Prince Edward Island is very low in **oxygen**, which prevented the whale from decomposing.

5. There are approximately **190** bones in a blue whale’s body.

6. The team discovered that somebody had used a chainsaw to remove one of the whale’s **flippers**.

7. One side of the whale’s skull was smashed. This was likely caused by a collision with a **ship**, which is the leading cause of death for blue whales today.

8. The team transported all of the bones to the city of **Victoria**, where they worked to reconstruct it.

9. They soaked the bones in an enzyme bath, which was supposed to remove the **oil** from inside of them.

10. After the skull bones were softened by the enzyme bath, they called in a **palaeontologist** to help them recreate the bones.

11. They were finally able to remove the oil from the bones by suspending them in the chamber of a vapour **degreaser**.

12. After struggling to get the skull into the museum, it took them **6** weeks to assemble the bones and prepare them for the unveiling.