

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!

ship	six	ten
palaeontologist	190	oil
80	flippers	degreaser
Prince Edward Island	half of a million	oxygen
one thousand	dorsal fins	Victoria

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.