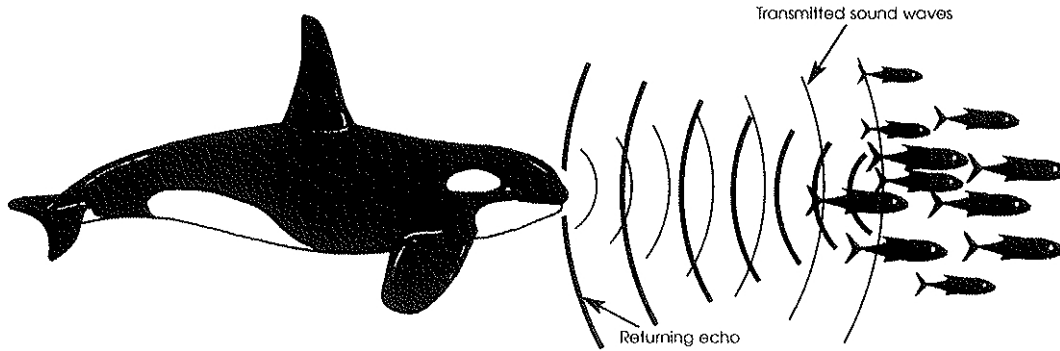


Good Vibrations

Scientists have discovered that toothed whales use sound to communicate and to navigate and locate prey in dark or murky water. They do this by sending sound waves through the water and listening for echoes. By listening to the echoes that bounce back from objects in the water, toothed whales can tell the shape, size, speed and distance of these objects.

This system of sound navigation is called **echolocation**.



Try this experiment to see why sound is the best way for whales to communicate and navigate.

What you need

- Tuning fork
- Shallow pan of water

What to do

1. Hold the handle of the tuning fork and strike the fork on a hard solid surface.
2. Place the fork immediately in the pan of water.

Describe what you see:

What does this tell you about whales?

