

# What Is a Whale?

A whale is an animal that lives in water. It has a **blowhole**, **pectoral flippers**, and **tail flukes**. Many people do not realise that dolphins are whales.

Whales and dolphins belong to a group of **mammals** called **cetaceans** that spend their entire lives in water. Today there are around 77 different species of cetaceans, inhabiting the oceans from Antarctica to the Arctic.

There are two different groups of whales—**baleen whales** and **toothed whales**.

Whales are among the most intelligent and mysterious creatures on Earth.

**In the whale shapes below, add the names of different toothed and baleen whales.**

## Toothed whales

Sperm whale

## Baleen whales

Blue whale