



Killer Whale Tales

How did the whale get its _____?

Orca Scientists,

Ever since man and orca first met, he has tried to understand and comprehend his neighbors in the sea. He has been intrigued by their hunting skills, their vocalizations and their incredible ability to inspire awe. Cultures around the world have incorporated killer whales into their stories and song. Some of those stories have tried to explain how orcas came into existence, while others have focused on what the killer whale world is like under the sea.

Now its your turn to write and tell your own orca creation story.

Supplies: Paper and pencil.

Preparation: Discuss man's use of stories to explain the world around him and how he relates to it.

Hands on: Have the students write their own creation stories regarding how the orca got its...(fill in the blank)

Examples: How did the orca get it's unique black and white color?
How did it get it's curved dorsal fin?
Why do they almost always spend their entire lives with their families?
Millions of years ago they lived on land and chose to return to the sea, why?
How did the orca get it's voice?

Once they have written their stories have them share them with the group verbally.

Variations: Have the students illustrate the stories
Have a group act out the story as it is being told

Additional resources:

Below is a brief list of books that are readily available at your local library or on-line.

Orca Song– told by KLOPINUM, written and recorded by Cameron, Anne
Isbn 0-920080-29-4

Myths and Legends of the Haida Indians of the Northwest– arranged by Martine Reid, Ph. D.
No Isbn. Available through Bellephron books, Santa Barbara, CA

Storm Boy– by Paul Owen Lewis. Isbn 1-58246-057-4