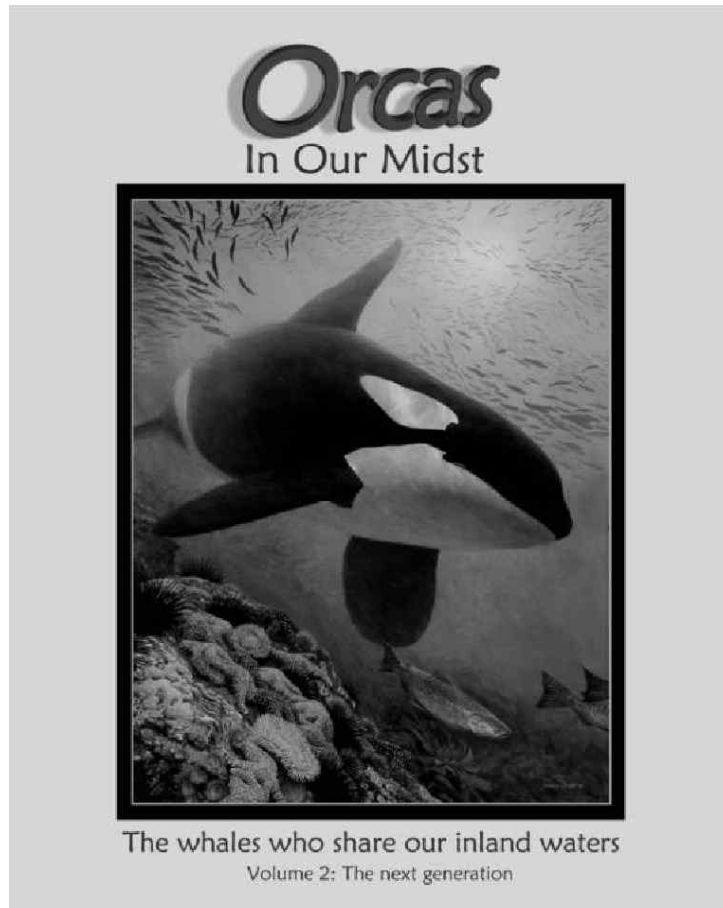


# Student Activity Guide

To accompany  
Orcas In Our Midst

also available online at: [www.killerwhaletales.org](http://www.killerwhaletales.org)



Presented by

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# Glossary

Baleen	Fringed plates in Baleen whales' mouths that filter out food
Biomass	The amount of living matter in an area or habitat
Blow Hole	A whales' "nostrils" on the top of its head
Breach	When a whale leaps clear out of the water
Cetaceans	The scientific order made up of whales, dolphins and porpoises
Clan	An extended family of orcas, made up of related pods
Community	An extended family of orcas, made up of related pods or clans
Decadal Oscillation	A large scale weather cycle affecting ocean conditions every 20 - 30 years
Dialect	A certain group of calls used only by specific pods or clans of orcas
Dorsal Fin	Triangular-shaped fin on orcas' back, much larger on adult males
Echolocation	The clicks used by orcas to "see" underwater and locate fish and objects
Eye Patch	White oval-shaped patch near orcas' eyes
Fluke	A whales "tail"
Logging	Lying motionless on the surface
Matriline	The family tree formed by generations of females in a pod
Melon	A reservoir of specialized oil prominent on the foreheads of odontocetes
Mysticetes	Baleen whales
Odontocetes	Toothed whales
Pectoral Fin	The side fins on whales, large and oval-shaped on orcas
Photo ID	The use of photographs to identify individual whales - for orcas, consisting of dorsal fin and saddle patch photos
Pod	A related family unit of orcas
Porpoising	Fast swimming behavior where orcas' bodies rise above the waters' surface
Saddle Patch	Gray marking on orcas' backs, just behind the dorsal fin, used to help identify individual orcas
Spout	The spout or "blow" of misty air when a whale exhales from its blow hole
Sprouter	A young adult male orca whose dorsal fin is beginning to grow large or "sprout"
Spy Hop	When a whale lifts its head vertically out of the water to look above the surface
Superpod	A gathering of several pods of whales to socialize and vocalize
Tail Lob	When a whale lifts its fluke out of the water and slaps it on the surface
Thermocline	Distinct boundaries between layers of different temperatures in the ocean which can carry sounds long distances



# Resources

For additional resources, go to

[www.orcanetwork.org/resources/resources.html](http://www.orcanetwork.org/resources/resources.html)

## Books:

Killer Whales: The Natural History and Genealogy of Orcinus Orca in British Columbia and Washington State  
John K. B. Ford, Graeme M. Ellis, Kenneth C. Balcomb, III

Transients : Mammal-Hunting Killer Whales of British Columbia, Washington, and Southeastern Alaska  
John K. B. Ford, Graeme M. Ellis

Orca, the Whale Called Killer  
Erich Hoyt, Susan Dickinson (Editor), Susan Brody (Editor)

Gray Whales: Wandering Giants  
Robert H. Busch

Encyclopedia of Animal Behavior : [Three Volumes]  
Edited by Marc Bekoff

Cetacean Societies  
Janet Mann (Editor), Richard C. Connor (Editor), Peter L. Tyack (Editor), Hal Whitehead (Editor)

Whales of the World: Natural History and Conservation  
Robin W. Baird

Guardians of the Whales: The Quest to Study Whales in the Wild  
Bruce Obee, Graeme Ellis (Photographer)

The Lives of Whales and Dolphins : From the American Museum of Natural History  
Richard Conner, Dawn Micklewaite Peterson

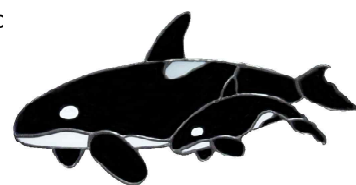
Listening to Whales: What the Orcas Have Taught Us and Siwiti (out of print but available at libraries)  
Alexandra Morton

The Presence of Whales: Contemporary Writings on the Whale  
Frank Stewart (Editor)

Orca - Visions of the Killer Whale  
Peter Knudtson, with foreword by David Suzuki

Singing to the Sound: Visions of Nature, Animals & Spirit by Brenda Peterson  
and Sightings: The Gray Whales' Mysterious Journey by Brenda Peterson and Linda Hc

Davy's Dream and Storm Boy  
Paul Owen Lewis



## Websites:

Orca Network	<a href="http://www.orcanetwork.org">www.orcanetwork.org</a>
Killer Whale Tales	<a href="http://www.killerwhaletales.org">www.killerwhaletales.org</a>
Center for Whale Research	<a href="http://www.whaleresearch.com">www.whaleresearch.com</a>
The Whale Museum	<a href="http://www.whalemuseum.org">www.whalemuseum.org</a>
BC Cetacean Sighting Network	<a href="http://www.wildwhales.org">www.wildwhales.org</a>
Whale Net	<a href="http://www.whale.wheelock.edu">www.whale.wheelock.edu</a>
OrcaLab & Orca-Live	<a href="http://www.orcalab.org">www.orcalab.org</a> <a href="http://www.orca-live.net">www.orca-live.net</a>
Natl. Marine Mammal Lab. publications	<a href="http://nmml.afsc.noaa.gov/library/publish.htm">http://nmml.afsc.noaa.gov/library/publish.htm</a>
Cetacea	<a href="http://www.cetacea.org/index.htm">http://www.cetacea.org/index.htm</a>
Killer Whale Index	<a href="http://is.dal.ca/~whitelab/rwb/kwindex.htm">http://is.dal.ca/~whitelab/rwb/kwindex.htm</a>
Cascadia Research	<a href="http://www.cascadiaresearch.org">www.cascadiaresearch.org</a>
NMFS NW Fisheries Science Center	<a href="http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/KW/sightings.cfm">http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/KW/sightings.cfm</a>
Stephan Jacobs' Orca Home	<a href="http://www.orcahome.de/">http://www.orcahome.de/</a>
Tidepool	<a href="http://www.tidepool.org">www.tidepool.org</a>
SeaWeb	<a href="http://www.seaweb.org">www.seaweb.org</a>
Underwater Times	<a href="http://www.underwatertimes.com">www.underwatertimes.com</a>