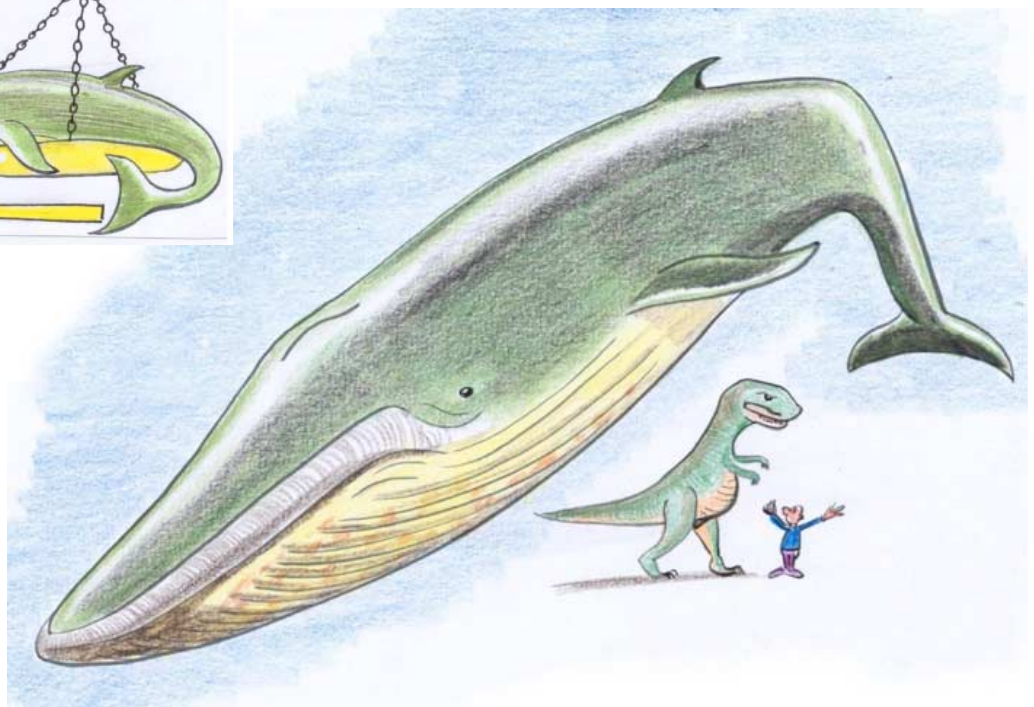
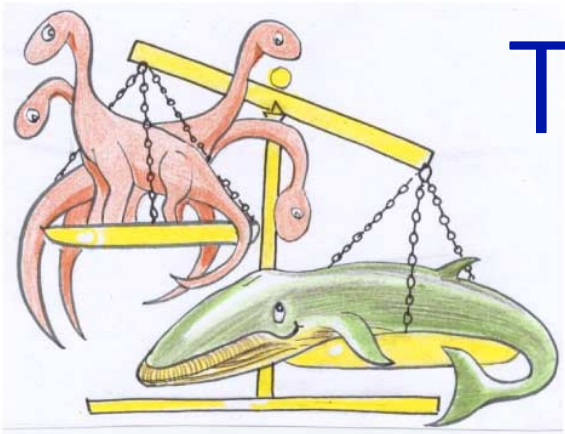


Aquatic Life

Bigger than the biggest dinosaur...

The Blue Whale



The blue whale is the largest animal that EVER lived; the largest ever caught was 29 metres long and weighed 158 tonnes. Its heart would have been as big as a Volkswagen "beetle" car and its aorta (the largest blood vessel in the body) wide enough for a person to crawl through. The largest dinosaur that ever lived – the brontosaurus – weighed only 30 tonnes – a quarter of the weight of the average fully grown blue whale.

Today the blue whale is protected by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) as an "endangered species".

Captain Cockle's Log

Welcome aboard shipmates! Together, we'll be taking a look at the world's greatest natural resource – one that covers two-thirds of the earth's surface – the sea!

Words & pictures by John Joyce

John Joyce 2003

For more adventures from Captain Cockle, visit his website at

www.captaincockle.com



BLUE WHALES RECOVERING

Scientists believe the Antarctic population of blue whales could be three times larger than it was 25 years ago – rising from 500 a quarter of a century ago to 1,500 now – according to the International Whaling Commission.



... Louder than the loudest rock band

Blue whales are the loudest animals on earth. When they call to each other, their low frequency whistles rise up to 188 decibels – louder than a jet engine (at 140 decibels) and MUCH louder than human shouting (at only 70 decibels). Any sound over 120 decibels is painful to the human ear.

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