

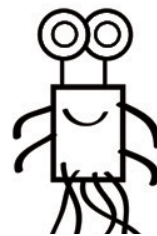
ONLINE SCAVENGER HUNT

With help from your parents, go online and find the answers to the following questions listed below:

1. Right whales give birth to their _____ in the coastal waters of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida from November through April.
<http://rightwhalessouth.nmfs.noaa.gov>
2. North Atlantic right whales inhabit the Atlantic _____; the majority of individuals in the western North Atlantic population range from wintering and calving areas in coastal waters off the southeastern United States to summer feeding and nursery grounds in New England waters and north to the Bay of Fundy and Scotian Shelf.
http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/mammals/cetaceans/rightwhale_northatlantic.htm
3. The North Atlantic right whale is one of the most endangered large whale in the world, and is _____ under the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act.
http://www.wildlifetrust.org/edge_of_the_sea/earlywarning.shtml
4. The two main threats to right whales are vessel strikes and _____ in fishing gear.
http://www.neaq.org/conservation_and_research/projects/endangered_species_habitats/right_whale_research/
5. The North Atlantic Right Whale Recovery _____ is designed to help protect right whales.
http://research.myfwc.com/features/view_article.asp?id=7188
6. The National _____ and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service is dedicated to the stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management, and the promotion of healthy ecosystems.
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/>
7. Right whales can be identified by distinguishing features such as a stocky body, black coloration, a large head, callosities, and the lack of a _____ fin.
http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/mammals/cetaceans/rightwhale_northatlantic.htm
8. With less than 350 remaining, it's important that we do what we can to _____ this species from extinction.
<http://rightwhalessouth.nmfs.noaa.gov>

Take the first letter of all your answers & fill in the blanks:

Right whales favorite kind of zooplankton or food is called _____



NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALES

(scientific name: *Eubalaena glacialis*)

North Atlantic right whales are classified as "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act. A species is considered to be critically endangered if evidence suggests that the species may be extinct within 10 years. In 2003, as few as 325 North Atlantic right whales may have been alive. A concern is that humans are responsible for the two known greatest threats to right whales: entanglement in fishing gear and vessel strikes.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

There are many ways you can help prevent further decline in the North Atlantic right whale population:

Let others know about the challenges of right whales.

Tell others about the importance of the coastal waters of the east coast of the United States to right whales and why vessel operators need to use caution.

Keep a look out while boating; right whales are hard to see but can be identified by their v-shape blow.

Slow down, if you see a whale!

Be sure to always stay 500 yards away from a right whale.



MOTHER AND CALF

Starting around the age of 10, female right whales can give birth every 5-6 years. Right whales are pregnant for one year and have calve between December and March. North Atlantic right whales usually are born and raised off Florida and Georgia, but sometimes they may be born as far north as North Carolina. Calves stay with their mothers for about one year and depend on them for milk.



About NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office

We are dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources through scientific research, fisheries management, enforcement, and habitat conservation.

For an electronic copy of this document, please contact Cheryl.Bonnes@noaa.gov.
For more information about right whales, visit <http://rightwhalessouth.nmfs.noaa.gov>



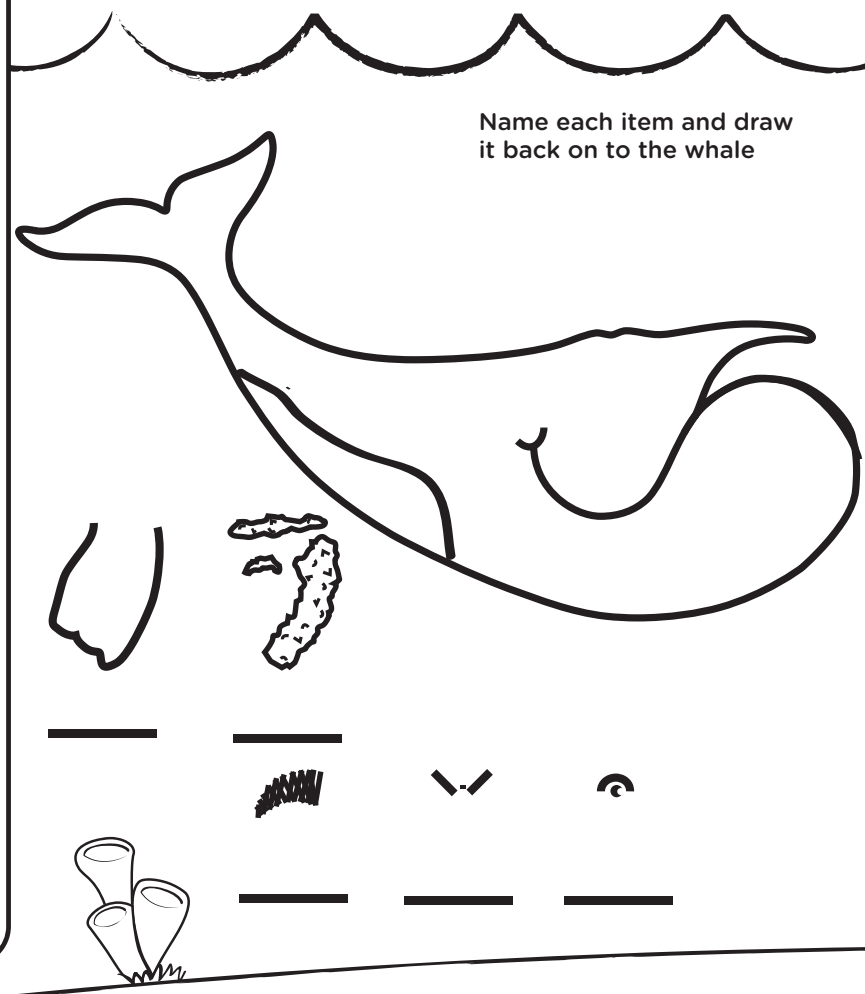
A special thanks to University of South Florida graphic designs students: K. Brown, L. Ferrante, L. James, M. Marin, T. McDonald, S. Morrison, A. Trojanowski, and S. Wiley.

THREATS

Right whales are mostly black, although some right whales have large white splotches on their bellies and throats. Right whales also have large white bumps, called **callosities**, on their heads. Callosities are not barnacles but rather more like tough skin on which small crabs live. Scientists use callosity patterns to identify individual right whales; notice how they typically form over the eyes and along the mouth. Right whales do not have dorsal fins like most other whales. They have a large tail fluke and two paddle-shaped **flippers** which helps them move through the water.

Right whales have a large head that make up to 1/3 of their entire body length. A right whale jaw is deeply arched. Instead of teeth; large, fringed plates called **baleen** hang down from each side of the upper jaw and can measure up to 9 feet long. When feeding, right whales swim with their gigantic mouths open and the baleen filters their food, rice-sized zooplankton, out of the water. An adult right whale can eat several tons of food per day.

Since right whales are mammals like you and I, they breathe air. They breathe through two blow holes located on the top of their heads. You can identify a right whale from a distance because when they exhale, the spray from their **blowhole** makes the shape of a "V" when viewed from directly in front of, or behind, the whale.



Name each item and draw it back on to the whale

Entrapment and Entanglement in Fishing Gear

Whales often become entangled in fishing gear such as nets, ropes, lines and even hooks. This gear can become wrapped around their fins making it hard for them to swim and around their head making it impossible for them to eat or even difficult to breathe.

Harassment

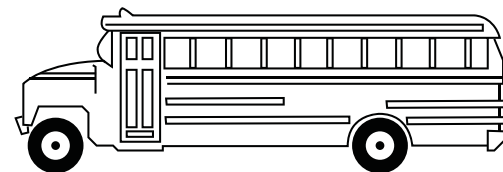
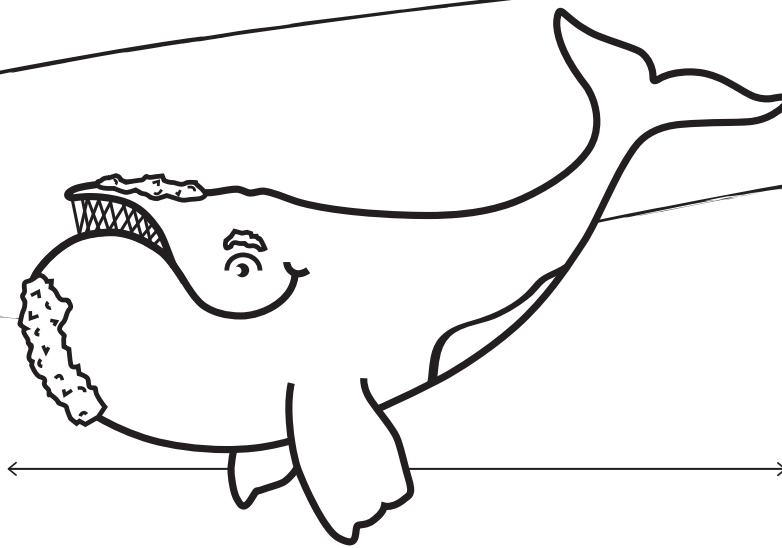
While in the Southeast U.S., calves form an important bond with their mothers before traveling in the spring to northern feeding ground. The Southeast U.S. is the only known calving area for North Atlantic right whales -there is no where else for them to go. Surfers, kayakers and boaters should stay far away from right whales so we don't disturb them especially when mothers are taking care of their calves. According to federal law, it's illegal approach within 500 yards of a right whale. If a right whale comes towards you, please move away slowly.

Vessel Strikes

Right whales are dark in color, have no dorsal fin, and swim close to the surface, all of which make it hard for mariners to see them. Whales have been hit by boats and ships resulting in injuries and sometimes death.

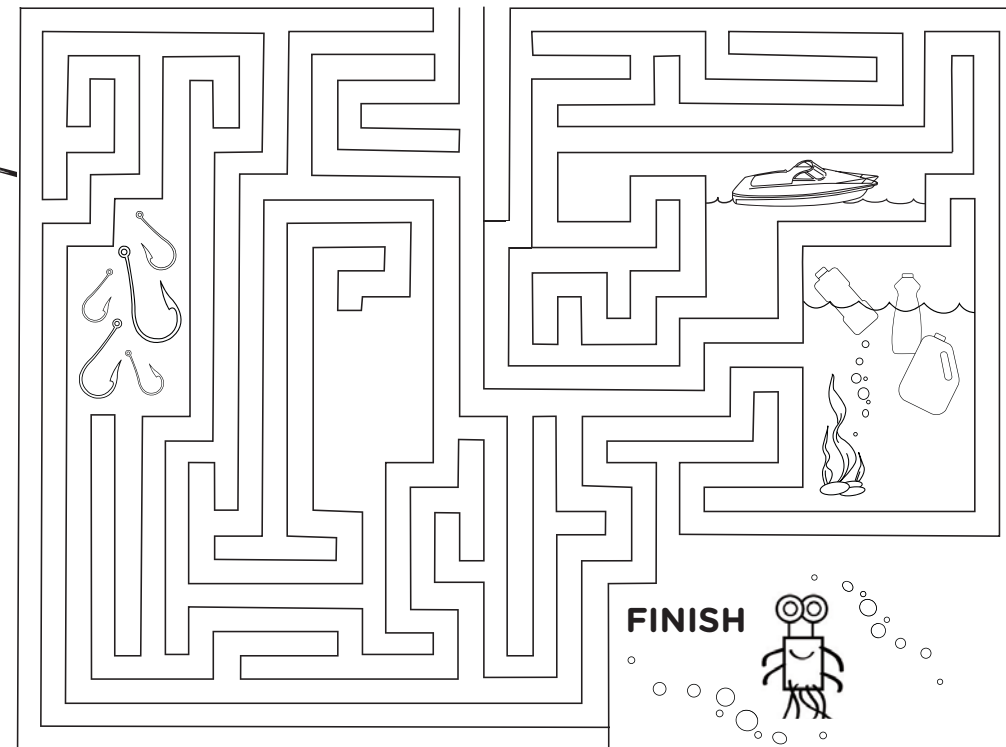
Marine Debris

Right whales often swim close to shore where they encounter many types of marine debris. Dolphins and whales can eat and become entangled in trash. It is very important not to litter and to remove trash and other marine debris found in the water.

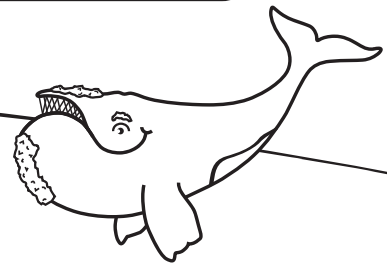


Right whales are very large. Adults may grow up to 55 feet long -longer than a school bus! Female right whales are larger than males. Baby right whales are known as calves; calves are 14 to 17 feet long when born. Right Whales can weigh up to 70 tons, or 140,000 pounds.

START






FINISH






HOW YOU CAN HELP RIGHT WHALES FORTUNE TELLER

There are ways you can help prevent any further decline in the North Atlantic right whale population. This fortune teller will tell you simple ways you can make a difference. Play this game with your family and friends; share what you have learned about how to protect right whales!

Instructions:





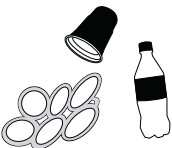






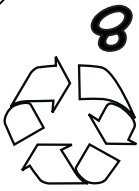


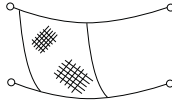

-  Step 1: Color in your whales the color specified (blue, gray, black, and purple). Color in the other images as you chose.
-  Step 2: Start with a square piece of paper by cutting at the line below.
-  Step 3: Fold the square paper in half on both sides. Now unfold and turn the paper over with the creases facing up.

-  Step 4: Fold each corner point of the square to the Center point. Turn over the folded square so the back is facing up towards you and repeat on this side of the square as well.
-  Step 5: Fold your new square in half, both ways so you end up with a small square. Now open up the last fold so you have a rectangle.
-  Step 6: Place your index fingers and thumbs under open flaps, now push up to form a pyramid shape.

Here is how you play the game:

- Step 1: Hold the fortune teller and ask a friend to choose one of the colors shown.
- Step 2: Spell out the chosen color by opening and closing the fortune teller, and stop.
- Step 3: Have your friend choose one of the numbers shown. Count out that number by opening and closing the fortune teller, and stop. Then repeat.
- Step 5: Have your friend choose one last number. Open the flap beneath that number and read one of the ways your friend can help right whales!

For more information about right whales, visit <http://rightwhalesouth.nmfs.noaa.gov>

 <p>Gray</p>	 <p>5</p> <p>Keep a look out on boats: right whales are hard to see but can be identified by their "v" shaped blow.</p>	 <p>6</p> <p>Slow Down If you are in a boat and see a right whale, slow down! Many right whales die or are injured from boat collisions every year.</p>	 <p>Blue</p>
 <p>4</p> <p>Don't litter! Right whales can eat and become entangled in trash. It is very important not to litter, and to remove trash and other marine debris found in the water.</p>		 <p>Don't Approach When in the ocean, be sure to always stay 500 yards away from a right whale. If a whale swims towards you, be sure to swim away.</p>	 <p>7</p>
 <p>3</p> <p>Spread the word to surfers, kayak-ers and boaters that we should stay far away from right whales so that we do not disturb their natural behaviors.</p>	 <p>Tell others about the importance of the coastal water of the eastern United States to right whales and why vessel operators need to use caution.</p>	 <p>Recycle Reduce trash in the right whales' ocean habitat by raising awareness of recycling in your community. You can even start up a local beach clean-up.</p>	 <p>8</p>
 <p>Black</p>	 <p>2</p> <p>Be sure to recycle your old or broken fishing line. Encourage other fishermen to recycle line and remove all nets from the water.</p>	 <p>1</p>	 <p>Purple</p>