Objective

Students practice sounding and spelling new words.

Materials

- Paper and pencils
- Chalkboard or writing surface

Action

1. Ask students to name words and terms they have learned while studying whales. Write these words on the board. Below are some suggestions:

Antarctic  guip  melon
Arctic    herd  ocean
baleen    hunt  plankton
big       ice   pod
blow      jump  predator
blowhole  krill  prey
blubber   leap  rostrum
breach    length  skin
breathe   lice   smooth
dive      listen  swim
dorsal fin long  tail
echolocate look  teeth
endangered lunge  underwater
flipper   mammal  water
flukes    marine  whale

2. Next, write the name “killer whale” vertically on the board. Ask a student to choose a word with the letter “k” in it. Write that word horizontally (so that the letter “k” in “killer whale” is also the k in the word chosen.) Repeat for each letter in the name “killer whale.” Below is an example:

3. Try again using another whale name.

Deeper Depths

Each student chooses a whale species. Using the letters of the whale’s name, the student creates a series of descriptive words about the whale. For example, “baleen,” “long,” “underwater,” and “endangered” describe a blue whale. As students take turns reading their words aloud, the class listens and identifies the first letters of each descriptive word. Then students guess the name of the whale.