

Gather your friends, coworkers and family for orca trivia!!! Learn something and build a strong pod!

Q=Question

A=Answer

Q: What is the Latin word for toothed whale?

A: *Odontoceti* or odontocete

Q: Where are orca found?

A: Globally, they are cosmopolitan and found in every named ocean basin

Q: What three types of animal are referred to as cetaceans?

A: Whales, dolphins and porpoises

Q: Which cetacean has a skull that is considered an orca lookalike, hence their name, although their external body looks very different?

A: False killer whale

Q: What prehistoric creature helped connect our understanding of cetacean evolution from land to sea?

A: Pakicetus

Q: What is the closest living land animal to whales?

A: The hippopotamus

Q: What scientific taxonomy Order are orca a part of?

A: *Cetacea*

Q: Orca are marine mammals. What are the five defining characteristics of a mammal?

A: Give birth live, drink milk, breathe air, are warm-blooded and have hair

Q: What do we call a sound, typically 1-2 seconds long, consistently repeated by a group of orca? These can be used to tell populations or subpopulations apart because they are acoustically distinct.

A: Discrete call

Q: What type of visual database is typically created to differentiate between individual orca and track populations?

A: Photo identification (ID) catalog

Q: Within the context of looking after a part of the ocean, what does MPA stand for?

A: Marine Protected Area

Q: Which orca fins contain bones?

A: Pectoral fins

Q: How many blowholes do orca and other toothed whales have?

A: One

Q: What porpoise is sometimes confused for orca due to their appearance?

A: Dall's porpoise

Q: Do orca have conical or spade-shaped teeth?

A: Conical

Q: What shark species can leave a small, circular scar from their bite on some populations of orca?

A: Cookiecutter sharks

Q: What is a keystone species?

A: Keystone species help define an ecosystem, helping to maintain balance and diversity, without them the ecosystem would be dramatically altered or not exist

Q: Other than keystone species, what conservation term do orca, elephants and pandas all share that helps describe their large size and appeal to humans?

A: Charismatic megafauna

(Charismatic megafauna is a conservation and ecology term that refers to species that are widely popular and well known in human culture. The species are often well represented across media and art because they are appealing, often generate interest for or represent a specific ecosystem, tend to be large animals and many are threatened or endangered. They are often also flagship species, keystone species and/or apex predators)

Q: What do we call the high-pitched clicks, that can be used by orca for hunting and navigation, that bounce off of objects in the environment and then travel up their jaw bone and into their inner ear?

A: Echolocation

Bonus point opportunity! One point per correct answer

Q: What physical and/or pigmentation attributes can be used for photo identification of orca?

A: Eyepatch, saddle patch, dorsal fin, nicks, scars, fluke pigmentation (underflukes), gape

Q: What military branch in more than one country trains cetaceans for covert operations?

A: The Navy

Q: Which country is known for having the highest average rate of orca strandings?

A: New Zealand

Q: Which two well-known orca off of South Africa have collapsed dorsal fins and are known for hunting great white sharks to eat their livers?

A: Port and Starboard

Q: What is the name of the endangered orca population famous for their interactions with boats in the Strait of Gibraltar?

A: Iberian orca

Q: What was the name of the captive orca who played the main character in the movie Free Willy, who was then released into the wild due to an overwhelming response from the film?

A: Keiko

Q: Which Southern Resident orca from J Pod carried the body of her dead calf for 17 days?

A: Tahlequah (J35)

Q: The West Coast Community of orca around the UK and Ireland are considered functionally extinct, what are the names of the presumed last two living members of this population?

A: Aquarius and John Coe

Q: Which country established the Ending the Captivity of Whales and Dolphins Act in 2019, their last orca in captivity was named Kiska?

A: Canada

Q: What juvenile, from A4 pod of the Northern Resident orca community, became separated from her pod, was then rehabilitated in a sea pen, released and now has had calves of her own in the wild?

A: Springer (A73)

Q: What are the names of the mother and son pair that are the last captive orca in France?

A: Wikie and Keijo

Q: Off the coast of Eden, Australia, Aboriginal people established relationships with orca and, thanks to a reciprocal arrangement, Old Tom along with his pod became known for helping whalers catch baleen whales. What was their mutual understanding or "law" called?

A: The Law of the Tongue

Q: What population of orca after being exposed to the Exxon-Valdez oil spill in Alaska are going extinct?

A: Chugach transients or AT1s

Q: An orca population that has members who use intentional stranding to hunt sea lion pups on the beach is located in which South American country?

A: Argentina (orca population Punta Norte Patagonia)

Q: What is the name of the lone male orca who is the only orca to be regularly spotted in the Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy in eastern North America?

A: Old Thom

Q: Zina, an orca among the largest release of captured cetaceans, was resighted in the wild. What was the name used by the media for the facility in Russia that housed 87 belugas and 10 orca (including Zina) after they were captured and before they were released?

A: The Whale Jail

Try adding 10 questions of your own to this trivia list!