

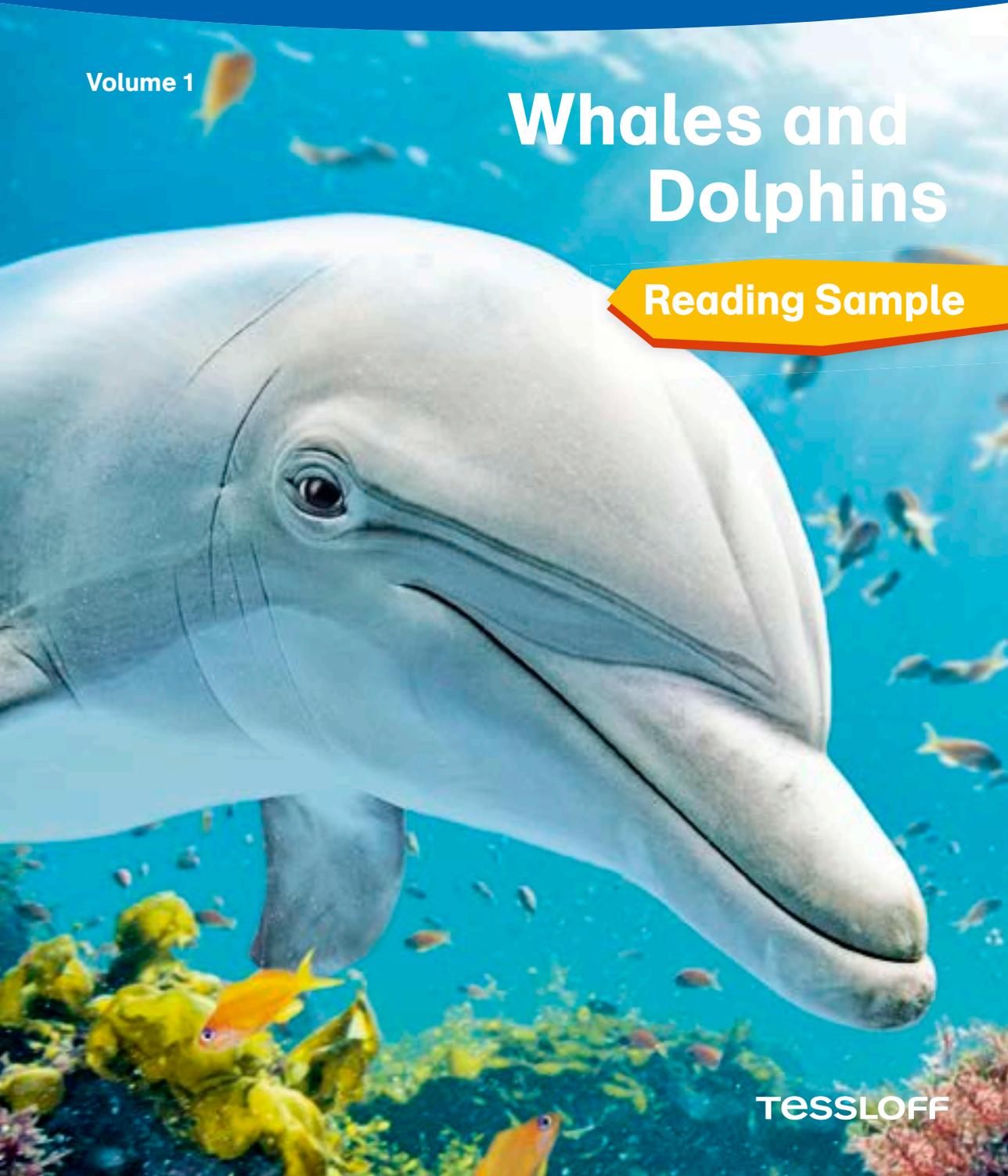


First READING

Volume 1

Whales and Dolphins

Reading Sample



TESSLOFF

Hi there!

My name is Dolly
and I'm a dolphin.

Join me on an exciting trip
to see some whales and dolphins.

Did you know that dolphins
are actually whales?

Discover my world with me, and
find out all kinds of amazing
facts about my big family.



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What are whales?

Whales are mammals

Whales and dolphins live in the water. They can be found in all of the world's oceans: in moderately warm seas and also in icy polar seas.

Whales are not fish, however, but mammals. They give birth to their babies. The young whales spend the first weeks of life very close to their mothers. They also drink their mothers' nutritious milk.



This young beluga whale is swimming very close to his mother.

A deep breath

Whales have to go up to the surface to breathe. They have lungs, just like us humans. That's why they have to hold their breath under water, like you do when you're diving in the swimming pool.

When they come to the surface, whales first exhale the used air. To do this, they have a blowhole on the top of their head. Then they inhale again. When they dive back down, they simply close their blowhole.



Did you know...

- ... that whales are not fish?
- Fish don't have lungs but gills. They can breathe under water with them.
- The baby fish hatch from eggs that are called spawn.
- Fish have scales – but the skin of whales is smooth.



Perfectly adapted

The bodies of whales and dolphins are perfect for living in water.

They are streamlined.

This means there is little water resistance, so they can swim fast.

dolphin



Blowhole

Dolphins have only one blowhole. Other whales, such as the humpback whale, breathe through two separate blowholes.



humpback whale

Dorsal fin

The dorsal fin gives the animals a steady position in the water.

Tail fin (fluke)

The animals swim forward by moving their tail fin or fluke up and down.

Beak

The snout of a dolphin is called a beak, because of its shape.

Pectoral fin (flipper)

The animals steer with their two pectoral fins, which are also called flippers.

Blubber

To make sure that they don't get cold, whales have a thick layer of fat under their skin. This layer is also called blubber.

I'm perfectly adapted to life in water!



Thar she blows!

When whales exhale at the water surface, a huge spout comes out of their blowhole.

This spout is called a blow. Each whale species has a blow of different height and shape.



blue whale

The blue whale's spout can reach a height of 12 meters.

Like a passport photo

Some researchers know so much about whales and dolphins that they can tell which whale species an animal belongs to just by looking at its fluke's shape, size or pattern.



dolphin

humpback whale



blue whale



orca



Well protected

Unlike fish, whales do not have scales.

Whales usually swim in cool or even ice-cold water.

They have a thick layer of fat under their skin to keep them from freezing.

This layer of fat is called blubber.



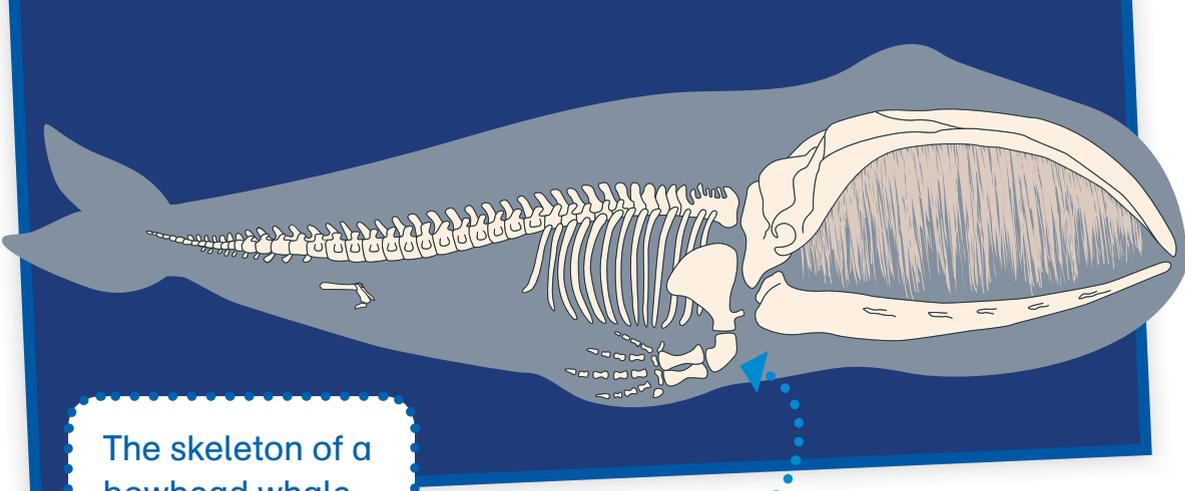
orca



humpback whale

The blubber protects the humpback whale in the ice-cold sea.

Since the water supports the body of these animals, their skeleton is not as stable as that of an elephant, for instance. If a whale gets beached, it has to get back into the water as fast as possible. Otherwise it can be crushed by its own body-weight.



The skeleton of a bowhead whale.

Pectoral fin

Pretty huge

The skeleton of a whale is very interesting. You can tell by looking at the bones of the two pectoral fins, for instance, that the whale is a mammal. They look like the bones inside our human hands. The bones of the ribcage protect the whale's heart and lungs.

Did you know...

... that the ancestors of today's whales had four legs and lived on land? That's what researchers found out.



Dolly's reading quiz

- 1** What's the name given to a whale's layer of fat?
 - a) Blubber
 - b) Rubber
 - c) Bubble

- 2** How do dolphins breathe?
 - a) With their gills.
 - b) Through their mouth.
 - c) With their blowhole.

- 3** Why are whales mammals?
 - a) Because they lay eggs.
 - b) Because they have gills.
 - c) Because they give birth to their babies.

Solutions: 1a), 2c), 3c)

Tell me, Dolly...



... what's it like to be a dolphin?

It's great of course!
I can't think of anything nicer
than swimming through the sea!
But sadly, we whales have to deal
with a lot of problems too.

What kind of problems?

There's so much rubbish in the sea,
especially plastic waste.
And also waste water from factories
and crude oil and fuel from ships.
All this pollutes our habitat.
And it's also very noisy underwater!
The propellers of ships and motorboats
make loud sounds that disturb the whales.

What happens if the animals are disturbed?

They're no longer able
to get their bearings underwater.
So some of them swim
in the wrong direction,
and get beached on land.

What can be done when that happens?

A lot of people help beached whales.
They protect them from the sun
and pour buckets of water onto their skin,
so that the animals don't dry out.
Sometimes they even manage
to get them back into the sea.

Thank you, Dolly! And have a safe journey!

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Learn to read!



NEW

Expert knowledge

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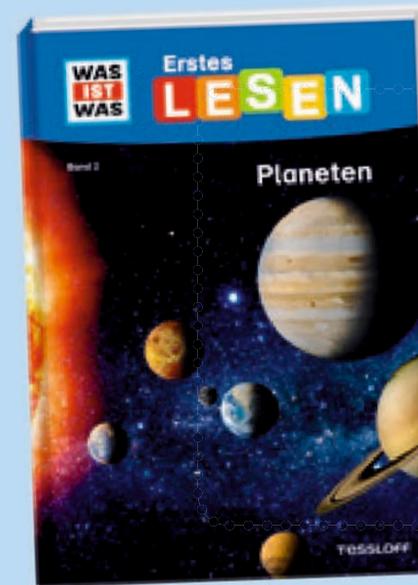
Includes reading quiz

We dolphins are whales as well!



Each book:
HC • 64 pages • 17,5 x 24,5 cm

Recommended reading age:
Class 1 Class 2 Class 3



Volume 2

Planets

Looking up at the stars only gives us a rough idea of the sheer size of the universe... In this book, young readers learn about the planets in our solar system, how space is structured, and what every astronaut must be able to do.

Volume 3

Volcanoes

The earth trembles, the inside of the mountain starts to boil – and suddenly, molten lava erupts from the volcano. What are tectonic plates and what do they do? What are hotspots and geysers? And where on Earth can volcanoes be found?



Volume 4

Discovering nature

Nature is one enormous green living room with many different kinds of plants growing in it. They offer living space and food to humans and animals. This book shows first readers how nature works.



... to be continued

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Gentle
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Science books from ages 8 and up



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A huge blue whale lifts its fluke from the water... Dashing dolphins spring over the foaming waves... A sperm whale dives to the depths of the ocean in search of its favorite food... Discover the exciting world of whales and dolphins!

- ▶ Knowledge readers for kids
- ▶ Large print and brief texts make learning to read easy.
- ▶ Reading quiz: Questions on the text to reinforce learning.

Recommended reading age:



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