

All sorts of animals, fish and wildlife live in the oceans. We hope to see some of these and will need your help to identify them. We'll share with you the amazing animals, fish and wildlife we see on the trip. You can test your memory... what interesting facts can you remember from our stories?

**The Bodacious Dream crew needs help to identify the various creatures we will see. Come onboard!**

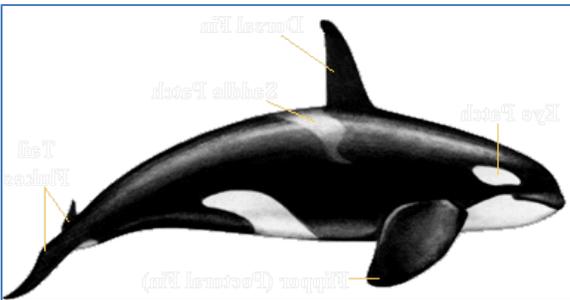


We expect to see different kinds of sea mammals like whales, dolphins, and seals along with birds, fish, turtles, and other interesting animals. Here are some of the whales we may see. Draw a line from the picture to the correct description.

**Blue Whale:** The biggest whale has a broad, flat head and a long, tapered body that ends in wide, triangular flukes. Its tongue weighs as much as an elephant and its heart as much as your car, but it can swim as fast as 20 miles per hour!



**Humpback Whale:** The most often seen whale has long flippers that have knobs on the leading edge, and butterfly-shaped tail flukes. It is known for its magical songs, a sequence of moans, howls, cries, and other noises. And it can live for 95 years!



**Fin Whale:** A tight tall blow distinguishes this whale. Others usually have a bushy spout. They are the second largest whale, often 90 feet long, and have unusual coloring — the right side of their jaw is white, the left is black. Very fast swimmers, they are called the “greyhound of the sea.”



**Sperm Whale:** Like Moby Dick, this whale has a massive head and prominent forehead, and flukes that are broad and triangular, resembling a ginkgo-leaf. Its brain is the largest of any animal and its tail can be 16 feet from tip to tip. It can hold its breath for 90 minutes!



**Orca Whale:** This “killer whale” earned its name because it tries to tip pieces of ice and dump seals and penguins into the water. There are more orcas than any other animal on earth (except humans). They can be 30 feet long with a 6-foot tall fin.

**Mahi Mahi (Dorado):** These fish have a strange shape with a very broad head, but they are amazingly colorful! They often look for food that hides or lives in and around large clumps of sargassum seaweed drifting in the Gulf Stream.



**Bottle Nose Dolphin:** Elongated upper and lower jaws form their snout, which gives the animal its common name. The real, functional, nose is the blowhole on top of its head just like the larger whales. These animals are very smart and fun to watch. You see them in aquariums doing tricks and stunts, but we believe they are one of the most advanced and intelligent animals on the earth. They use a clicking sound as a locator, much like sonar. They send out a click and wait to hear the echo in return to determine the location of other fish and objects. They also use other sounds and whistles to communicate with each other. They love to follow and jump in the wakes of boats, and always bring a happy smile to sailors.



**Man-of-War:** This really interesting creature lives in the warm gulf stream waters. Although it looks like a jellyfish, it is actually several organisms working together. The top part is a gas-filled bladder (or bubble) that floats on the water. It looks sort of like an old warship at full sail... or a plastic bottle, which is why the Man-of-War's nickname is "bluebottle." Dangling below this floating bubble are very long tentacles – 30 feet to as long as 165 feet. The tentacles are poisonous, and their sting kills fish. They won't kill us, but we still don't want to get very close to them! Seeing these in the water means we are in the gulf stream.



**Sargassum Seaweed:** Often called “gulfweed,” floating seaweed provides nutrients and life for small ecosystems of fish and marine organisms. It harbors smaller fish, which attracts the larger ones. The moving tide of the ocean causes this free floating seagrass to collect in a “tide line” on the water surface where currents meet up with faster or slower moving water. You can see this in the picture on the right; lines can stretch for miles, and help us find currents and fish. Bodacious Dream will sail along the western edge of what is known as the Sargasso Sea, which covers a large portion of the middle Atlantic Ocean. The seaweed is named for this sea.



What purpose do the small white balls in Sargassum serve?

- a. To decorate the seaweed
- b. To help it float
- c. To provide food for fish
- d. To hold it together

What kinds of creatures live in the Sargassum?

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mahi mahi             | <input type="checkbox"/> Dolphins  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sea turtles           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sea slugs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lizards               | <input type="checkbox"/> Birds     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mermaids              | <input type="checkbox"/> Mice      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shrimp-like creatures | <input type="checkbox"/> Crabs     |

What characteristics do you think make the Sargassum Fish (in the picture to the left) fit in with the Sargassum seaweed?

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