

## GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION



They can be found in all the oceans of the world and in most of the seas—sometimes even in the Mediterranean and occasionally in the Red Sea.

## HABITAT

Coastal and oceanic waters.



THEIR BACK IS BLACK. THEIR CHEST, BELLY, AND SIDES ARE WHITE. THEY ALSO HAVE A WHITE PATCH BEHIND THEIR EYES.

Orcas can imitate human and animal sounds, learn new behaviors, and even solve tasks.

They have excellent vision, both inside and outside the water. Their hearing is highly developed and they have an advanced sense of touch.

They have a system of echolocation capable of detecting the position and size of their prey.



MELON

EYESPOT

DORSAL FIN

The dorsal fin is their distinguishing feature. It differs in size, shape and number of scars on each animal.



They have very strong jaw muscles with a bite that's stronger than a great white shark's.

SNOUT

40-56

They have between 40 and 56 teeth, all with the same shape.

## LIFE EXPECTANCY

UP TO 30 YEARS

Males live to be about 30 years old on average.

UP TO 35 MPH

Their strength and hydrodynamic shape make them one of the fastest marine mammals.

UP TO 32 FEET

Males measure up to 32 feet (9.75 meters), females up to 28 feet (8.5 meters).

UP TO 14,500 POUNDS

Males can weigh up to 14,500 pounds (6,600 kilograms). Females weigh between 6,600 and 8,800 pounds (3,000 and 4,000 kilograms).

THEY ARE AN APEX PREDATOR OF THE OCEAN.  
220-440 lbs

They consume 220 to 440 pounds (100 to 200 kilograms) of food daily.

Their diet varies by region. They can feed on birds, fish, and mammals.

They emit sounds to orient themselves, to locate food, and to communicate. They produce three types of sounds:

- TONAL WHISTLES
- ECHOLOCAION CLICKS
- MODULAR CALLS



Sometimes they hunt by pursuing their prey until they give up out of exhaustion.

THEY ARE EXCELLENT HUNTERS AND CAN HUNT ALONE OR IN PACKS.

They finish off their prey by biting.

TAIL FIN

They emit sounds and slap their tails to stun their prey and disorient them.

They sometimes drive their prey into the shallow water on the shores and even create waves to knock mammals resting on small icebergs into the water.

## REPRODUCTION

ORCAS MATE WITH SEVERAL PARTNERS.

The gestation period of the calf is between 15 and 17 months.

They give birth to a single calf that measures about 8 feet (2.4 meters) in length and weighs 440 pounds (200 kilograms).

The mortality rate of calves is high during the first 6 months of life, with a death rate of between **37% and 50%.**

## THERE ARE 3 TYPES OF ORCAS IN THE NORTH PACIFIC WATERS

**Residents:** Do not migrate. They live in family groups of up to 5 generations. Their dorsal fin is curved and rounded at the tip.

**Transients:** Move in small groups or on their own. They are in constant motion. They have a triangular dorsal fin with a pointed tip.

**Marine:** Move in the open seas in groups of up to 50 individuals. They are smaller than other orcas. Their dorsal fin is similar to that of resident orcas.

## Taxonomy

Phylum: **chordata**  
Class: **mammalia**  
Order: **cetacea**



# ORCA

AN EFFECTIVE HUNTER



It belongs to the dolphin family.

Scientific Name  
**Orcinus orca**

Diet  
**Carnivorous**

Living Environment  
**Water**

Conservation Status  
**Locally vulnerable**