



A little

Pwheooowhh-woup!

That is the sound of a whale taking a breath as it breaks through the waves. Whenever people hear it, they can't help but turn to look. Whales have fascinated us for thousands of years. They are huge and powerful, and also gentle and social. In some ways they are very like us, but they are also very mysterious.

Whales, dolphins, and porpoises all belong to a big whale family also known as cetaceans. Some members of this family are acrobats and others are singers. Some are great travelers while some stay close to home. All are intelligent and a lot of them are curious and playful.

In this book you will meet many members of the whale family and learn a little about their lives beneath the waves. You will discover how whales have been an important part of human history and find out what we can do to make sure they are part of our future, too.