

# The Orca Whale

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The Killer Whale, or *Orcinus orca*, is a mammal that belongs to the dolphin family, known as *Delphinidae*. However, it is commonly referred to as a whale because of its large size. The killer whale is the largest member of the dolphin family, with a body length ranging from 5 to 8 meters, and some even reaching 10 meters. It weighs approximately 6 tons, with a dorsal fin that can grow up to 1.8 meters.





Orca is easily recognizable by its distinctive coloration - a combination of black on the upper body and white around the eyes and underneath. Its mouth is pointed, and its teeth are conical and razor-sharp. The number of teeth can vary, but they typically have 40 to 56 interlocking teeth. These teeth can grow up to 10 cm in length.

Orcas are found in all oceans around the world. They are commonly seen in colder regions like Antarctica but can also be found in warmer waters such as Florida and Hawaii.





As carnivorous animals, orcas hunt and feed on a variety of prey. They target animals, such as seals, sea lions, tuna, turtles, penguins, dolphins, small fish, rays, large whales (including blue whales), and even sharks, including the great white sharks.



Their hunting techniques vary depending on the prey. For example, if their prey is on ice, like seals, orcas create large waves to knock them into the water, making it easier for them to catch. When hunting large whales, they work together to keep the whale submerged, preventing it from breathing, until it becomes weakened, and then they attack as a group.

When dealing with dangerous prey like great white sharks and rays, orcas use their intelligence to avoid their prey's weapons. They push them to the surface and deliver powerful blows with their large tails. As the prey weakens, the orcas ram into it, and when it loses consciousness, they bite it. If the prey is near the coast, they may even beach themselves temporarily to capture it.





It's important to note that orcas are not fish, but rather marine mammals. They resemble fish in appearance, but they are in fact part of the same family as whales and other dolphins. They give birth to live young, just like other mammals, with a gestation period of about 15 to 18 months. After birth, the mother nurses her calf, just as other mammalian species do. This is how orcas reproduce.





Orcas are not only large and powerful marine mammals, but they are also highly intelligent creatures. They are clever, strong, and dominant, rightfully earning them the title of the kings of the ocean.