

TRACTION

A "WHALE" OF A GOOD TIME!



-  **TOPIC:** Teamwork/Discovery of the comparative size of marine mammals
-  **ACTIVITY TITLE:** A WHALE OF A GOOD TIME
-  **TARGET AUDIENCE:** Ages 10 - Adult
-  **OBJECTIVES:** Participants will be able to -
 1. Work in "cluster teams" to create a life sized model of a whale from the materials provided.
 2. Compare their body size to that of a great whale!
-  **MATERIALS:**
 - Tape Measure (100 foot)
 - Scissors
 - 12' X 40' ml black polyethylene plastic
 - 8' X 40' ml clear polyethylene plastic
 - Clear polyethylene tape (packing tape works well)
-  **TIME:** 2 hours
-  **SETTING:** large indoor room
-  **GROUP SIZE:** 10-20 participants
-  **SKILLS:**
 - TEAMWORK**
 - Analysis
 - Computation
 - Application
 - Comparing similarities & differences
 - Description
 - Discussion
 - Visualization
 - Measuring
 - Observation

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PROCEDURE:

Participants will use the pattern (page 3) to lay out the design and then assemble the life sized whale using the materials supplied.



STEPS:

1. Lay out plastic on five foot grid.
2. Cut out all parts, according to the measurements on the pattern. Cut out the flippers and tail flukes from the leftover pieces of plastic (*after* cutting out the whale).
3. Tape together the flippers and tail flukes (remember the right and left sides for both) and tape together the top dorsal fin. DO NOT tape the body (straight edge) connection.
4. Tape together the cut-out sections of the whale's top portion, as indicated on the pattern.
5. Tape together the cut-out sections of the whale's bottom portion, as indicated on the pattern.
6. Place the tail flukes and flippers on the bottom portion of the whale, at their specified locations.
7. Working from the tail section to the mouth area on each side, start taping the top portion to the bottom portion. Leave an opening at the mouth (for the box fan) to inflate the completed whale. Leave the ends of each flipper (the ends that attach to the body) "open" so they can be taped in place, at the right spot. Air will then be able to fill the flippers if there is an opening to the body. Leave an open "slit" in the center of the tail fluke and tape that to the open back end of the whale body, this will allow air to fill the fluke also.
8. Mount the top dorsal fin onto the top portion, above the flippers - approximately.
9. Place the 5-inch eye drawings on the top portion, just in front of the flippers.
10. Once the whale is fully taped, place the fan inside the mouth opening and inflate whale.

