

DGR Day Two

Re- read the text: Whales in Danger

WHALES IN DANGER – why?



Being hunted used to be the main threat to whales living in the wild. For many centuries, whales were wanted for their meat, oil and bones. In the 1980s, it was agreed that most hunting of whales should stop, because many species of whale were becoming endangered. This action has helped many species of whale to grow in number.

But whales still face other threats to survival, due to the way that humans are using the seas and oceans. One major problem is pollution. Large amounts of waste from factories have been dumped in some of our oceans, and sometimes oil spills into the seas.






Such activities can lead to the poisoning of whales and other sea creatures. Whales can also be harmed by careless fishing: they can become injured or entangled in the enormous fishing nets used to catch large amounts of fish.

Wildlife organisations throughout the world are helping everyone to realise how important it is to protect the whale, and treat the ocean with respect. By understanding more about why whales are in danger, we can continue to find ways to care for them, and increase their chances of survival.

Whales in danger GUIDE

Wildlife experts are carefully monitoring the numbers of different whale species, and identifying the dangers that they face.

Whales may be classified as **endangered** (facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild, fairly soon) or **vulnerable** (facing a high risk of extinction in the wild, not too far ahead in the future). The table shows some examples.

	Humpback whale	Disturbance from human activity, when the whales are feeding near coastlines.
	Blue whale	Illegal hunting.
	Grey whale	Disturbance from human activity when the whales are feeding in shallow waters, and entanglement with fishing nets.
	Northern right whale	Entanglement with fishing nets, and collisions with ships.
	Fin whale	Pollution in the ocean.

Copy and complete

If an animal is **endangered** it means _____

If an animal is **vulnerable** it means _____

If something is **illegal** it means _____

increasing

observing and checking
over a period of time

monitoring

working out and pinpointing
what something is

identifying

putting something in to
a specific group

classifying

becoming greater
in size

