



**Scientific name :** *Megaptera novaeangliae*

**Family :** Mysticetes

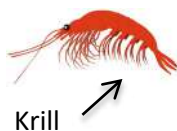
**Length :** 15 to 18 meters long

**Weight :** 30 to 50 tons

**Dive duration :** Up to 30 minutes

**Average diving depth :** 100 meters

**Life span :** about 50 years

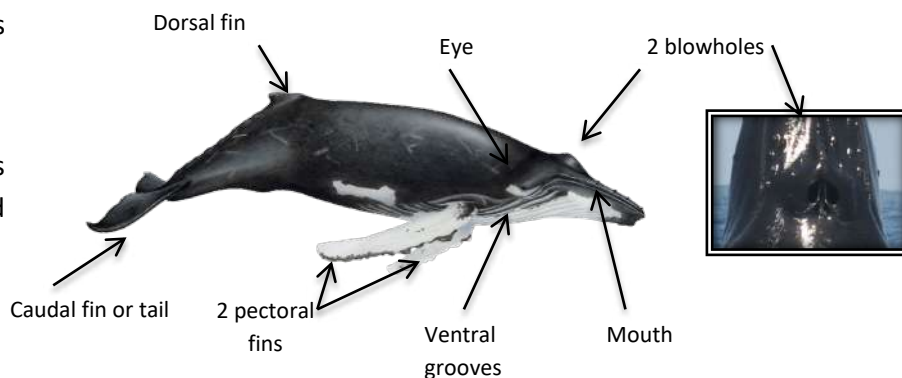


### Distinctive characteristics

They have a black back and often a white belly. They have 2 very long pectoral fins and the ones from the North Atlantic Ocean have a white top.

### Behaviour

They are one of the most well-known cetaceans for their spectacular jumps called « breach » and their caudal or pectoral fins slapping.



### Diet

They go to the cold water of the poles in order to feed themselves. They can swallow up to 1 ton of Krill and fish per day. During their migration as well as in warm waters they don't eat, or not much and they lose 1/3 of their mass. They don't have any teeth but they have between 270 and 400 baleens.



### Reproduction

They migrate to warm waters for the love season or to give birth to their baby. Males sing during this period. We can hear them up to 30 km under water. Males compete to seduce the female. They form « active groups ».



### Threats and protection

It has been forbidden to hunt Humpback whales since 1966, except in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and in Greenland. In the Agoa sanctuary, they are protected.



### In the French West Indies

We can spot Humpback whales from december to june. They are protected in the Agoa sanctuary. The best places to observe them are from high viewpoint above the sea such as « Pointe des Châteaux » in

### The whale calf

A calf (from 1 to 2 tons) will be born 11 to 12 months later, tail-first, and 4 meters long. It will feed on it's mother's rich milk for 5 to 6 months and will gain 50 kg a day ! It becomes sexually mature from the age of 4 to 7.

### Did you know ?

We can identify the Humpback whale thanks to its caudal fin. It is like a fingerprint. Each caudal fin is unique.

