



White whale on the move!

A completely white whale has been seen swimming next to the coast in Australia.

The whale's name is Migaloo, which means "white person." Migaloo is a humpback whale. Right now he is migrating with a group of other humpback whales.

Migaloo was first seen back in 1991. Scientists have watched him carefully, because they think Migaloo could be the only white whale in the world today.

The Australian government wants to protect Migaloo. They made a rule that boats and people are not allowed to go close to the whale.



Listen to this news story!

www.englishraven.com/wnk/20090709.html





A. Reading Skills

Word Power – Use a dictionary and write down what these words mean:

- ① **completely** ⇒
- ② **coast** ⇒
- ③ **migrate** ⇒
- ④ **government** ⇒
- ⑤ **allowed** ⇒

Reading Questions

① What is this news story about?

- A. Migaloo the white whale
- B. Migaloo the white person
- C. Whales and scientists
- D. Rules in Australia

② Migaloo is swimming...

- A. by himself
- B. with one other whale
- C. near the coast
- D. far from Australia

③ Who has been watching the whale?

- A. Teachers
- B. The navy
- C. Fishermen
- D. Scientists

④ What rule did the Australian government make to protect Migaloo?





B. News Extra: Humpback whales



Listen to this News Extra! www.englishraven.com/wnk/20090709.html



Listen and fill in the gaps

Humpback _____ are a special kind of whale. They make a “hump” shape when they jump out of the water, so they are _____ humpbacks.

Humpbacks are very _____ whales. They can be more than 15 metres long and they can _____ more than 36,000 kilograms. That’s _____ than most big trucks!

In the summer, humpbacks go to cold places like Antarctica to _____. Then, in the winter, they travel to _____ places to have babies. When animals move like this, it is called migrating. Humpbacks _____ up to 25,000 kilometres each year!

Missing words

migrate | warm | called
 feed | hump | big
 weigh | whales
 heavier

True or False?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Humpbacks are very large. | T / F |
| 2. Humpbacks do not weigh very much. | T / F |
| 3. Humpbacks like to eat food in warm places. | T / F |
| 4. Humpbacks can travel very far. | T / F |





C. Talk Time!

Person A

- ⇒ **Hey, did you hear the news about that whale?**
- B. Yeah, the white one?
- ⇒ **That's right. He's called Migaloo.**
- B. Right, right! Interesting, isn't he?
- ⇒ **Yes. But guess what? I'm going to go and see him, perhaps even touch him!**
- B. You mean, in your dad's boat?
- ⇒ **Yep! Want to come along?**
- B. I don't think that's a good idea...

Person B

- A. Hey, did you hear the news about that whale?
- ⇒ **Yeah, the white one?**
- A. That's right. He's called Migaloo.
- ⇒ **Right, right! Interesting, isn't he?**
- A. Yes. But guess what? I'm going to go and see him, perhaps even touch him!
- ⇒ **You mean, in your dad's boat?**
- A. Yep! Want to come along?
- ⇒ **I don't think that's a good idea...**

Ask the class!

- ❶ **What news am I talking about?**
⇒ *The white whale (Migaloo)*
- ❷ **What am I going to do?**
⇒ *Go and see (touch) the whale*
- ❸ **Does my friend want to come along?**
⇒ *No he/she doesn't*

Ask the class!

- ❹ **Have I heard the news?**
⇒ *Yes*
- ❺ **What did my friend invite me to do?**
⇒ *Come along (to see the whale)*
- ❻ **Can you guess why it's a bad idea?**
⇒ *?*





D. Class Discussion

Questions	❶ Have you ever seen a real whale?	❷ Why are whales special?	❸ Should people go close to whales? Why/why not?
<u>MY</u> Answers			
Friend 1			
Friend 2			
Friend 3			





White whale on the move!

Teacher's Notes

For ideas on how to apply various activities with the different lesson stages, please visit:

http://www.englishraven.com/wnk_teachers.html



Link to archive version of news page:

www.englishraven.com/wnk/20090709.html

Answer Keys:

A. Reading Skills

1. A 2. C 3. D 4. Boats and people are not allowed to go close to the whale

B. News Extra: Humpback whales

Humpback **whales** are a special kind of whale. They make a "hump" shape when they jump out of the water, so they are **called** humpbacks.

Humpbacks are very **big** whales. They can be more than 15 metres long and they can **weigh** more than 36,000 kilograms. That's **heavier** than most big trucks!

In the summer, humpbacks go to cold places like Antarctica to **feed**. Then, in the winter, they travel to **warm** places to have babies. When animals move like this, it is called migrating. Humpbacks **migrate** up to 25,000 kilometres each year!

True or False?

1. T 2. F 3. F 4. T

