

Whale Watching!

For this assignment, you will write a good old fashioned research paper on the cetaceans of the Atlantic Ocean. You will need to pick one of the whales that migrate near our shores and describe their identifying characteristics and migration patterns.

1. Pick a whale – make sure you pick one of the whales that migrate in the Atlantic Ocean rather than the Pacific Ocean.
2. Provide background information
 - a. What is the scientific name (genus & species) of your whale?
 - b. What is the typical size and weight of your whale?
 - c. What is the average life span of this species of whale?
 - d. Describe the predator-prey relationship of your whale.
 - e. Describe the primary environment, habitat and niche of your whale.
 - f. Is this species of whale endangered or threatened? Why?
3. Migration patterns
 - a. Why does your species of whale migrate?
 - b. When does the migration typically take place?
 - c. In what numbers do the whales migrate?
 - d. How long does the migration take place?
 - e. What is the duration for each location? Why?
 - f. How far do the whales travel?
 - g. How do the migratory patterns relate to the seasons?
 - h. Describe the migratory route including specific landmarks, meteorological conditions and other encounters.
4. Pictures
 - a. Migratory Patterns
 - b. Fluke Identification
 - c. Pictures of your whale, of course!
5. Research Paper Guidelines
 - a. Typed: size 12 – 14 Times New Roman font
 - b. 3-5 pages, double spaced, 1” margins
 - c. APA formatting
 - d. AVOID PLAGARISM – Use your own words or use quotes and proper citations!

Use these websites to help you get started

- <http://www.whaleroute.com/migrate/>
- <http://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/nceas-web/kids/mmp/migration.htm>
- <http://vathena.arc.nasa.gov/curric/oceans/whales/>
- [The Marine Mammal Center](#)

- [American Cetacean Society](#)
- [Cetacean Society International](#)
- [Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society](#)
- [Center for Whale Research](#)