



Teacher's Notes: Blue Whale Carcass

General Tips: The goal is to build background knowledge while leading an engaging discussion on any and all information that can be talked about on a given page. The items that you choose to bring up or focus on can be modified for the students you are working with. For example, if you have a student who can point to something in the picture, answer yes/no questions be sure to incorporate a lot more of that as you go through the book. On the same token, be sure to ask a lot of comprehension questions and critical thinking questions at the level appropriate for students working on those skills. There is something for everyone.

Addressing problem solving: Throughout the e-book, help students identify the problems that are involved and choice making opportunities throughout the article.

Page 1: Discuss date and day of the week it fell on, how many days left of February, etc. This is a blue whale. Blue whales live in the ocean. **Point:** February 22nd, Thursday, the last day of Feb. **Questions:** What kind of animal is this? Where do blue whales live?

Page 2: The carcass was found on a beach. A carcass is a dead body. The beach was in Chile. Look at the map. Look at where we live. That whale used to be in the ocean, but the waves pushed it up on the beach. It was dead.

Point: Chili, U.S.A., carcass, Pacific Ocean, dead blue whale

Questions: What is a carcass? Why is the blue whale on the beach? What kind of animal is that? Video <https://youtu.be/9pjI2XkmoL0>

Connecting: Have you been to a beach? Do you swim? Have you seen a dead animal carcass before?

Page 3: Blue whales are the largest mammal. A mammal is an animal that does not lay eggs. Blue whales live in the ocean. The biggest mammal that lives on land is an elephant. The whale is bigger than an elephant. **Questions:** What is the biggest animal in the world? Is a whale bigger than an elephant? How many buses are the same size as a big whale? **Point:** whale, airplane, school buses elephants.

Page 4: Endangered means that we do not have very many left. Scientists are worried that they might become extinct. Extinct is when there are NONE left. Right now there are some blue whales, but not very many. That is why they are called endangered. **Point** to the blue whale's tail, the ocean, the word 'endangered' **Questions:** What does endangered mean? Are blue whales endangered?

Page 5: Scientists do not know why that whale died in Chili. They are doing experiments to see if they can find out what made it sick. A marine biologist is a scientist that studies things that live in the ocean. **Point:** scientist, gloves, lab **Questions:** What are scientists trying to figure out? Do we know why that whale died?

Page 6: Scientists think that the whale might have died because of a certain type of algae that was in the ocean. Red algae. Algae are plants that grow in the ocean. There is one type called red algae. If there is

too much of it, it pollutes the water. That may have made the blue whale sick. The scientist is checking to see. **Point:** red algae, scientists, flashlight **Questions:** What is the scientist looking at? What does he think? What is algae? What is red algae? Is red algae poisonous?

Page 7: When the whale was on the beach some tourists saw it. Tourists are people on vacation. They wanted their picture on the whale. They sat on it. They took pictures. **Questions:** Why do you think they wanted a picture of that? What is a tourist? Do you think that was safe? Should they sit on that whale? Why or why not? What country are they in? **Point:** tourists, whale, sand, ocean.

Page 8: Some people wrote their name on the carcass. They scratched their name on the skin of the whale. Why do you think they did that? Was it respectful? **Questions:** Should you write on a dead animal? Should you sit on it? **Point:** name Ana, skin of whale

Page 9: There is a young name in Chili. His name is Rodrigo. He saw the pictures of the tourists sitting on the whale. He saw a name carved in the skin of the whale. He did not like that at all. He wrote about it on Twitter. Twitter is on the computer. He said the girls were disrespectful. That means they were not being nice to the whale. They were not feeling bad about the whale. What is Rodrigo thinking? What is in the thinking bubble? **Point** Twitter, computer, Rodrigo, thinking bubble **Questions :** What do you think Rodrigo is thinking? Is he happy? Why or why not? Do you think that the tourists should have taken pictures or written their name on the whale? What does disrespectful mean?