

Progress Monitoring Probe 9

Humpback Whales of Glacier Bay

There is a park in southeast Alaska named Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. It is a land of green forests and snow-capped mountains. Glassy waters mirror the scenic landscape. Two hundred years ago, this place was covered by sheets of ice, called glaciers. When the ice melted, it left behind a rich and beautiful environment.	10 22 30 40 52 57
During the brief summer in Alaska, daylight lasts for many hours. The sun warms the water in Glacier Bay. Small, floating plants bloom in the warming water, and tiny marine animals feed on them. The tiny animals, in turn, are the favorite food of huge humpback whales.	67 78 89 102 104
Glacier Bay has become famous as a summer home to humpback whales. These whales can often be seen swimming or feeding close to the shore. Humpbacks do not have teeth. Instead, they have filters called baleen. As a whale swims forward, water rushes into its mouth. As the water rushes back out, the tiny marine animals are caught in the filters and swallowed by the whale.	114 124 134 144 155 166 170
Humpback whales also eat larger fish. In fact, humpbacks sometimes work together to catch fish, using a process called bubble netting. A group of whales makes a circle of bubbles around a school of fish. Then the whales dive under the fish and rise up through the water. Holding their mouths open, the whales catch as many fish as they can hold. On average, a humpback whale eats almost five thousand pounds of food each day.	179 189 200 213 224 236 246
Humpback whales stay near the surface of the water. From time to time, they leap into the air. This action is called	256 268

Humpback Whales of Glacier Bay (Continued)

breaching. Whales also swim on top of the water and slap their tails noisily against it. No one knows for sure why whales do these things, but they appear to be having fun.	280 292 301
In September, the days become shorter in Alaska. The waters begin to cool. The food the whales depend on is no longer plentiful, so most of them leave for warmer waters. They spend the winter near Hawaii. Then, when the days begin to lengthen, the humpback whales turn again toward their summer home at Glacier Bay.	311 323 334 345 355 357

Total words: _____ errors: _____ = words correct: _____

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