

Favorite Facts!

This book is packed with fun facts about these remarkable marine animals. Pick two facts that you find the most interesting about each animal, and use them to dive into this activity. The Idea Bank suggests some fact topics you can pick from, but you can also choose your own! Write about each animal fact and how you would apply the fact to your own life!

Sperm Whale

Giant Squid

Fun Fact 1	What Amazes Me About This Fact	How I Would Use This Fact	Fun Fact 1	What Amazes Me About This Fact	How I Would Use This Fact
<i>Head size</i>	<i>The whale has a massive head—bigger than a school bus!</i>	<i>If I had a head that big, I would fill it with facts and be able to answer anything!</i>			
Fun Fact 2	What Amazes Me About This Fact	How I Would Use This Fact	Fun Fact 2	What Amazes Me About This Fact	How I Would Use This Fact

Idea Bank

- | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Swimming skills</i> | <i>Head size</i> | <i>Brain size</i> | <i>Eye size</i> |
| <i>Body size</i> | <i>Special superpower</i> | <i>Fighting abilities</i> | <i>Hunting skills</i> |
| <i>How it eats</i> | <i>Underwater breathing abilities</i> | | |

Check for Understanding

- Time to test your prediction! Did you guess the correct winner? Now that you've read the book: If the whale and squid had a rematch, who do you think might win?
- If you could choose a fluke to enter a swimming contest, which would you pick, and why?
- What would you say to convince whaling ships not to hunt sperm whales?

What is the deadliest ocean animal? In this exciting book, discover surprising things about sperm whales and giant squids! Then guess what would happen if these two giant ocean animals had a face-off. Who do you think would win?

Before reading, you could ask ...

Did you know that sperm whales' teeth can be 12 inches long? That's as long as a ruler! If you had a tooth as long as a ruler, what would it be like? How might it change the way you eat or talk?

Giant squids are masters of disguise. They can change their color to blend in with their surroundings. If you could change color like a giant squid, how would you use this superpower?

Using what you know about sperm whales and giant squids, plus what you see on the book cover, who do you think will win a fight? Why?

December Family Reading Tip of the Month: Make Connections

When children make connections between their book and their own lives, the world around them, and other books they have read, they can better understand what they are reading.

You can ask:

- If you were the main character, what would you do?
- How is this book similar to or different from another book you have read?
- What are some things in this book you wonder about?

Help your child make connections by asking questions about what they read!



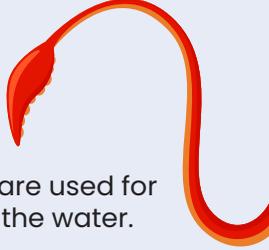
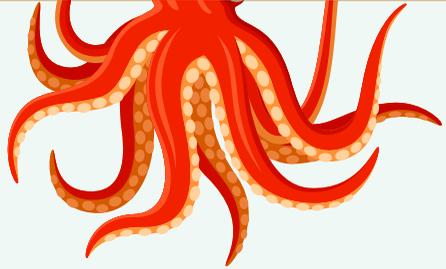
Endings Matter!

Suffixes are small parts added to the end of words, like *-less* in *endless* or *-s* in *propels*. Just like a sperm whale's tail adds power to its swim, a **suffix** can add power to your words! Knowing about **suffixes** helps you understand and use words better.

In this activity, you'll use clues to figure out which **suffix** best fits the blank spaces in the sentences. Watch out, though. To make things more interesting, we've added a few sneaky **suffixes** that don't belong to any of the words!

Suffix Bank

-ful *-es* *-ly* *-er* *-ed* *-est* *-ing*

 <p>Giant squids' fins are used for <u>steering</u> through the water. (steer)</p>	 <p>The sperm whale's colossal head is the _____ head of all animals. (large)</p>
 <p>Squid is _____ as calamari on restaurant menus. (list)</p>	 <p>Whales have tiny eyes that are only two _____ wide. (inch)</p>
 <p>Squids use their _____ arms to grab their prey. (feed)</p>	

Answer Key: steering, largest, listed, inches, feeder

Vocabulary Voyage!

Learning new and tricky words can feel a bit scary at first, like jumping into the deep end of a pool. But don't worry! Just like learning to swim, the more new words you learn, the better you'll understand different books.

propels
(p. 7)

When something **propels** itself, it pushes itself in a certain direction. A giant squid **propels** itself forward by sucking water into its head and then squeezing it out.

submerge
(p. 20)

Something that is **submerged** goes under water and stays there. Sperm whales can hold their breath and stay **submerged** under water for 45 minutes.

agile
(p. 21)

If something is **agile**, it can move quickly and easily. Giant squid are **agile** because they can change direction quickly and swim backwards.

darts
(p. 28)

If something **darts**, it moves very quickly from one place to another. The giant squid **darts** away from the whale after it blows ink into the whale's face.

Imagine this: you are aboard a deep-sea fishing boat, trying to bring in a massive fish that's tangled in your net.

But wait, it's not a fish. It's a ... you get to choose! Did you catch a giant squid, a sperm whale, or perhaps both? Write about your thrilling deep-sea fishing adventure on a postcard to a friend. Be sure to use all of your new vocabulary words in your message.
