

Encyclopædia Britannica Online School Edition offers encyclopedias and related materials for students of all levels. To help you use the site more effectively, we've created this short tour. It will guide you through Encyclopædia Britannica Online School Edition, from the home page to a search results page and then an article page. In addition, we've highlighted Britannica's Learning Materials — a collection of exercises, activities, and study guides.

Navigating the Home Page

The Home Page is an entryway to all the resources available on the site.



Search

Find information quickly and easily by simultaneously searching Britannica's four encyclopedias, hundreds of magazines and journals, editor-selected Web sites, and our collection of videos and interactive media.

Simply type in a word or phrase in the search box and click Go.

More School Edition Features

View a list of the features available in each of the three reading levels, including:

- Index Browse
- A-Z Browse
- Biography Browse
- Subject Browse
- Year in Review
- World Atlas
- Timelines
- Video Browse

Choose a Reading Level

The Home Page provides access to the three main sections of the site, each with targeted content based on reading level. Use the main links on the right side of the page, or the buttons at the bottom of the page, to choose the level that is appropriate for you:

- *Encyclopædia Britannica* for High School students and up
- *Compton's by Britannica* for Middle School students and up
- *Britannica Elementary* for Elementary Students and up

Each age-appropriate section includes an encyclopedia as well as magazines, editor-selected Web sites, videos, and interactive media.

You can also explore Learning Materials, a *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* and *Thesaurus*, a World Atlas, Timelines, and other features specific to each reading level.

Search Results

After entering a word or phrase in the search box and clicking Go, you will see a page that looks similar to the one below. From the results that match your query, you can choose to examine an items more closely, or try another search.

The screenshot shows the search results for 'whale' on the Encyclopædia Britannica Online School Edition website. The page is divided into several columns and sections:

- Search Bar:** At the top, there is a search box containing 'whale' and a 'GO' button. To the right, there are links for 'Unsure of the spelling?' and 'Search Tips'.
- Navigation:** Below the search bar, there are links for 'HOME', 'DICTIONARY', 'LEARNING MATERIALS', 'TEACHERS' RESOURCES', and 'GUIDED TOUR :: HELP'.
- Encyclopædia Britannica (High School):** This section shows results 1-6 of 488. It includes a list of whale species with small images and a detailed entry for 'whale' with a larger image and text describing Cetacea. It also includes links for 'View: Article', 'Images', 'Index Entry', and 'Multimedia'.
- Compton's Encyclopedia (Middle School):** This section shows results 1-6 of 217. It features an entry for 'whale' with an image and text stating it weighs as much as 20 elephants. It also includes a link for 'View: Article'.
- Elementary Encyclopedia (Elementary):** This section shows results 1-6 of 50. It has an entry for 'whale' with an image and text explaining that whales are mammals, not fish. It includes a link for 'View: Article'.
- Additional Content:** This section lists 'Journals and Magazines' (Grades 1-5, 6-9, 10-12), 'Britannica Concise Encyclopedia', and 'The Web's Best Sites'.
- Multimedia:** This section shows results 1-3 of 39. It includes a video/animation titled 'Whale' and a map titled 'whale'.
- Videos:** This section shows results 1-1 of 1. It includes a video titled 'Sharks: The Whale' and another titled 'Shark (00:49)'.
- Learning Materials:** This section shows results 1-1 of 1. It includes a link for 'Barnum Means Big'.
- Footer:** At the bottom, there are logos for 'ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA ONLINE SCHOOL EDITION', 'ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA For High School Students and up', 'COMPTON'S BY BRITANNICA For Middle School Students and up', and 'BRITANNICA ELEMENTARY For Elementary Students and up'. There is also a 'Search Again' section with a search box, a dropdown menu for 'All School Edition', and a 'GO' button. At the very bottom, there are links for 'Comments and Questions', 'Subscription Form', 'Usage Agreement', and 'Legal Notices', along with the copyright notice '© 2006 Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.'.

Find Your Way

Use the links at the top of any page to return to the Home Page, browse the Learning Materials, find Teachers' Resources, or get more Help with the site.

Search Results

Several different sources of information are displayed, each in their own column.

Encyclopædia Britannica

One of the most authoritative information sources in the world with over 73,000 articles.

Compton's by Britannica

Authoritative encyclopedia articles written for middle school students.

Elementary Encyclopedia

Encyclopedia articles written for young students.

Journals and Magazines

A selection of current magazines and journal articles, available for three different grade levels.

Britannica Concise Encyclopedia

Brief articles for quick answers to a range of questions.

The Web's Best Sites

Websites reviewed by our editors help expand your study.

Media and Video

A collection of more than 2,000 video clips and animations.

Learning Materials

Activities, manipulatives, interactive lessons, and more.

New Search

You can also perform a new search by entering a word in the Search Again box, selecting a content source from the menu, and clicking Go.

Encyclopedia Articles

Britannica Online School Edition contains over 123,000 articles, each cross-references and organized to help you find the information you need. When you view an *Encyclopædia Britannica* article you will see a page like the one below. If you view a *Compton's by Britannica* article or *Britannica Elementary* article, you will see a slightly different display.

The screenshot shows the article page for 'whale' on the Encyclopædia Britannica Online School Edition website. At the top, there is a search bar with 'whale' entered and a 'GO' button. Below the search bar are navigation links: HOME, DICTIONARY, LEARNING MATERIALS, TEACHERS' RESOURCES, GUIDED TOUR, and HELP. On the left side, there is a 'Content Related to this Topic' sidebar with links for Main Article (6), Images (1), Tables (1), Media (1), and Related Articles (19). Below this is a 'This Article's Table of Contents' section with a plus sign next to 'whale'. The main article area features a title 'whale' and a sub-header 'Encyclopædia Britannica Article'. There are buttons for 'PRINT PAGE', 'PRINT ARTICLE', 'E-MAIL ARTICLE', and 'CITE ARTICLE'. The article text begins with 'any of the larger species of aquatic mammals belonging to the order Cetacea. The term whale can be used in reference to any cetacean, including porpoises and dolphins, but in general it is applied to those more than 3 metres (10 feet) long. An exception is the 2.7-metre dwarf sperm whale (Kogia simus), so called for its otherwise striking resemblance to its larger namesake. Whales are the heaviest known animals, living or fossil, reaching a maximum size in the blue whale (Balaenoptera musculus) of perhaps more than 30 metres and 200 metric tons (220 short [U.S.] tons). Whales are distributed throughout the world's oceans and seas, from the Equator to the polar ice, except for the landlocked Caspian and Aral seas. They are mammals, and they share the defining traits of that group: they breathe air, are warm-blooded, give live birth, suckle their young on milk, and have hair. All are entirely aquatic, with specialized adaptations such as flippers and tail flukes for living in water. Whales must surface regularly to breathe, evacuating their lungs more completely than most mammals in an almost explosive breath known as a blow. Blows are visible because water vapour in the whale's hot breath condenses when the blow is released. To cite this page: MLA style: "whale." Encyclopædia Britannica. 2006. Encyclopædia Britannica Online School Edition. 14 Feb. 2006. <http://school.eb.com/eb/article-9076726>. APA style: whale. (2006). Encyclopædia Britannica. Retrieved February 14, 2006, from Encyclopædia Britannica Online School Edition http://school.eb.com/eb/article-9076726 Britannica style: "whale." Encyclopædia Britannica from Encyclopædia Britannica Online School Edition. <http://school.eb.com/eb/article-9076726> [Accessed February 14, 2006]. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA ONLINE SCHOOL EDITION For all Students', 'ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA For High School Students and up', 'COMPTON'S BY BRITANNICA For Middle School Students and up', and 'BRITANNICA ELEMENTARY For Elementary Students and up'. There is also a 'Search Again' section with a search bar and a dropdown menu set to 'All School Edition'. At the very bottom, there are links for 'Comments and Questions', 'Subscription Form', 'Usage Agreement', and 'Legal Notices', and a copyright notice: '© 2006 Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.'

The Article

The text of the article appears in the center of the page. Links within an article will direct you to other *Encyclopædia Britannica* articles in one simple click.

Buttons at the top of the article provide a quick way to Print, E-mail, or Cite any article.

Click on the images or video within the article for a larger view, or to play the video.

Related Content

Images, maps, tables, media, and other articles that are related to the article you are viewing are easily accessed with these buttons.

Note that the numbers to the right indicate how many additional resources are available in each of these categories.

Table of Contents

Longer articles are divided into separate sections. You can go directly to different sections of the article by clicking the headings of the article's Table of Contents, which appear on the left side of the page.

Click the plus sign (+) next to a heading to view subheadings. You can also display the entire Table of Contents by clicking the Expand All link at the top.

Citations

If you plan to refer to an article in a report or paper, we provide correctly formatted citations in MLA, APA, and Britannica formats.

Pop-up Dictionary

If you are unsure of the meaning of a word, just double-click it to automatically open its definition in the Merriam-Webster Student Dictionary.

Change Databases

If you'd like to find articles at a different reading level, use the buttons at the bottom of the page to change your view.

- *Encyclopædia Britannica* to find content for high school students
- *Compton's by Britannica* to find content for middle school students
- *Britannica Elementary* to find content for younger students

Learning Materials

Britannica's collection of Learning Materials can help students perfect their skills and expand their knowledge. Access Learning Materials by clicking the link at the top of any page. Then select from one of the main subject areas and choose an activity. Activities open in a new window, as seen below.

Choosing Learning Materials
In each subject area, Learning Materials are grouped into narrower subjects as well as into different types of activities.

To open an activity, simply click on the title. It will open in a new browser window.

If you have difficulty opening any of the Learning Materials, make sure you have the proper software plug-in. Links to plug-ins are provided when appropriate.

Curriculum Standards
All of the Britannica Learning Materials have been correlated to state standards. Click on the **Standards** button next to the activity title to see how the activity measures up in your state.

More Learning Materials
If you would like to browse the Learning Materials in a different subject, you can use the links in the left column to access them quickly.

Science: Biology/Life Science: Eye and Vision
When you click on one of the Learning Materials, it will open in a new window. Each activity is different, so please read the directions provided in the activity you have chosen.

Many activities contain worksheets, quizzes, and other classroom materials for use by teachers and students.