



# The Song of the Whale

*And high on the breeze came his sweet-sounding song -  
“I’ve so much to show you, if you’ll come along.”*

The whale in the story is singing! Have you ever heard a whale's song? Find one on the internet and have a listen. Strange isn't it? What do you think that whale is singing about? Is he singing about the ocean or singing to his friends to come and play? Is he telling a story to the dolphins or just singing for his supper? If you could write a song for the whale to sing, what would it say?

Most whales make noises that are groans or clicks or squeals, and some whales, such as sperm whales, use mainly clicks to communicate. But there are some, such as humpback whales, who make a whole variety of sounds that they group together into patterns that they sing over and over again.

There are ocean scientists who study the songs of whales and they noticed something strange. The whales in each group were singing the same song - the same repeated patterns over and over! Each male whale in that group would go around singing it – a bit like a catchy pop song that everyone knows! And over several years the song changes ever so slightly – a click pattern might become a trill – a bit like a pop star adding their own ‘woah, yeah’ into the melody. But the basic song would remain.

Until a whale bumps into a whale from a different part of the world. Singing a new song. Woah! What is this groovy new beat?! And off he would go with some new tunes to sing and teach to his friends.

*And high on the breeze came his sweet-sounding song ~*

Can you make up a song on your own or in a group? What sounds would you make? What would your tune be? Would you use instruments? Does it have a beat? Can you sing it the same way over again? (hint – keep it short and memorable) Is it just a tune or does it have words? If it has words, what do they say?

Now you have your song, can you teach it to someone else or another group? Have a listen to their song. Can you sing it too?

*We danced with the dolphins that waltzed through the sea...*

See if you can make up a dance for your song! Would it be a floaty dance just like the waves of the ocean and swaying plants, or would it be a quick, darting dance like a tiny fish? Would it have jumps and leaps like the dolphins or big crashing moves like the tail slap or breach of a whale? Or would it have them all?!

Practise your dance on your own or in a group and then perhaps perform it to your friends or family.

*“I’ve so much to show you, if you’ll come along.”*

In *The Tale of the Whale*, the song is a call to come on a journey, to experience all the amazing things the ocean has to offer and to understand what is happening to our oceans.

What did you understand from the journey you went on with the whale? What friends did you meet on the way? What else do you think he wants you to know? Was it good or bad?

What do you think we should do now we have heard the whale's story?

How are you going to do it? Write your ideas down or draw some pictures.

Tell other people about them and ask them to help.