Did you know these fun facts about whales?

The closest living relative to cetaceans (whales and dolphins) are hippos.

The blue whale has the largest penis in the world at about 8 feet long, but not the largest testes. That award goes to the Southern Right whale. One pair of Southern Right whale gonads weigh about one ton.

The largest animal to ever grace our planet, living or extinct, is the blue whale. Blue whales have tipped the scales at 140 tons and reached 100 feet. The blue whale tongue alone can weigh as much as an elephant.



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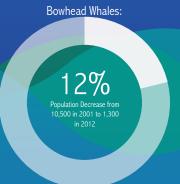
Whales play a very important role in the health of our environment and our understanding of marine mammals as well as playing an important role in helping growing economies that rely on whale watching and other spectator activities bring in capital through tourism.

When it comes to the environment and the oceans ecosystem whales help regulate the flow of food by helping to maintain a stable food chain and ensuring that certain animal species do not overpopulate the ocean.

A blue whale for example can consume as much as 40 million krill per day, so you can imagine the impact this would have on stabilizing the aquatic ecosystem if the blue whale species were to become extinct.

Studies have shown that the nutrients in sperm whale poop helps stimulate the growth of phytoplankton which pull carbon from the atmosphere to provide a cleaner and healthier breathing environment for all animals.

What can you do to help?



Mind your carbon footprint and reduce energy consumption

Make safe, sustainable seafood choices

Use fewer plastic products

Help take care of the beach

Don't purchase items that exploit marine life Support organizations to protect the oceans

Influence change in your community

Travel the ocean responsibly

Educate yourself about oceans and marine life



people, and its arteries are so big that a basketball could float through them. If most people had to guess the largest



animal that ever existed, they would probably name some long extinct creature like a mammoth or dinosaur.

However, the largest creature isn't extinct. It's the blue whale, which can reach over 30 meters (100 ft) and weigh 180,000 kilograms (400,000 lbs).

A blue whale's heart can be as big as a small car and beats loud enough to be detected from 3,000 meters (2 mi) away. Its mouth is big enough to fit 100