

# ***World of Wonder***

## **Educational Standards and Suggested Activities**

Release week January 12, 2014: WHALES

### **Standards**

- Current Events: Students will research and write a newspaper editorial about whale hunting.
- Science: Students will research and compare whale intelligence with other animals.
- Science: Students will learn about whales from a documentary and share new information with the class.

### **Activities**

1. Use the News: Most countries don't hunt whales anymore. Why not? Some countries still do. There are many animals people kill for food, resources and sport. How do we decide which animals are all right to kill and which are not? Research whale hunting and animal rights, and write an opinion newspaper editorial explaining your view on the hunting of whales and other animals.
2. Whales are supposed to be quite intelligent, but how do they compare with other intelligent animals? Research and do a comparative report on whale intelligence. How do scientists measure animal intelligence? What other animals are intelligent? Does brain size have anything to do with it?
3. What do whale "songs" sound like? What do they mean? What oceans do whales live in? How do they take care of their babies? These questions and more are answered in this Nature documentary about whales. As you watch the video, write down several facts you were not previously aware of. You can then share what you learned with the class.  
<http://youtu.be/wYImXDBwoew>

*World of Wonder* meets many state educational standards. This guide helps teachers identify standards and related activities generally intended for grade 6, but teachers can modify activities to the appropriate grade.