

Southern Right Whale



South Australian
Whale Centre
A Marine Environment Facility

ANSWERS - True or False or Not Sure (T, F, NS)

1. F: Whales are mammals, they are warm-blooded, breathe air, have body hair and the mothers feed their calves milk.
2. T: Whales have warm bodies and warm blood and can maintain their body temperature even in the icy waters around Antarctica.
3. F: These bumps are called callosities which are thick, hardened patches of skin that may have whale lice and barnacles on them.
4. F: Southern Right Whales are found well south of the equator. There have been sightings at Hervey Bay in Queensland and Albany in Western Australia.
5. F: Researchers counted 172 Southern Right whales, including 81 female and calf pairs, in one day during the 2016 whale season.
6. F: Northern Right Whales live in the northern hemisphere and never meet our Southern Right Whales. None of them travel into tropical regions.
7. F: SR Whales come here to avoid the extreme cold of the Antarctic winter, to find a mate or to have their calves in our safe waters.
8. F: Some SR Whales are born white, others black and white and some rare ones stay a light colour e.g. Milky Way and Latte. The baby whales are called calves.
9. T: SR Whales lift their heads out of the water and look around to locate other whales or predators, to check their surroundings and to attract mates. This behaviour is called "Spy Hopping".
10. T: Dolphins, porpoises, orcas and all whales belong to the order "Cetacea" and are collectively called "Cetaceans".
11. T: SR Whales can be up to 18m in length, larger than a bus and as long as an articulated (double length) bus.
12. T: SR Whales "baleen", fibrous strands of keratin to sieve plankton and krill out of the water.
13. F: In Encounter Bay there are many vantage points to see whales from the land that are better than from a boat, such as the Bluff, Freeman Lookout, Petrel Cove, Kings Head, Granite Island and Basham Beach. See the Whale Watching Map for many more.
14. T: They do so to play, to mate or to stop the baby from continuously feeding. Mothers are often seen cradling their baby on their belly or lifting it with their fluke.



VirtualVisions



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