

# Example Text: Scientific Report

## Whales

Whales come from the family known as cetaceans. Despite what many people think, they are not fish. In fact they are warm-blooded, air-breathing mammals. Most whales live in the icy waters of the Arctic and Antarctic oceans and use their thick layers of fatty blubber to keep warm. There are two types of cetaceans – toothed and baleen.

### Toothed Whales

Cetaceans such as dolphins are known as **odontocetes** and can have anywhere from 2–250 teeth. They use their teeth to grip their food such as squid and fish, rather than chew them. Their prey is located by using **echolocation**. The signals sent out from the front of their heads bounce off objects and return to the whale through their hollow lower jaw. Toothed whales live in large groups, known as pods. Each pod usually contains one male with many females and their calves.

### Baleen Whales

Unlike their toothed relations, baleen whales such as humpback whales have two blowholes, not just one. They also live in smaller family based groups and have only one mate. Instead of teeth, baleen whales have a series of plates, called whalebone, that hang down from their upper jaw. They act like a sieve, straining out the food such as plankton and krill. Baleen whales feed during the summer and then migrate to warmer waters to breed.

**Whales (2002) [Online] [www.kidcyber.com.au](http://www.kidcyber.com.au)**

### Glossary

Odontocetes – having teeth

Echolocation – sound like sonar

Can you use the information in the text to label the diagram above to help readers understand the scientific report?

