

READING

FOR QUESTIONS 14 TO 20, READ THE PASSAGE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW.

BLUE WHALES



Did you know that the largest animal to have ever lived still roams the Earth today? Yes, blue whales are so big that even the biggest dinosaur that ever lived doesn't come close in size. Blue whales can be found in every ocean of the world, including the Atlantic, the Pacific, and the Indian oceans, and they are simply gigantic! Blue whales generally grow between 80 to 90 feet long, but there have been reports of lengths of 110 feet. That is longer than three school buses put together! Blue whales can weigh from anywhere between 150 to 170 tons. In fact, just their tongues alone weigh more than an elephant! A blue whale heart is of the size of a small car and the main blood vessel is so big that a human can crawl through it. The heart needs to be that size because of the 10 tons of blood that have to be pumped around the blue whale's enormous body. Even a baby blue whale, which is called a calf, is of the size of an elephant when it is born. Blue whales are solitary animals and usually swim alone or in pairs, although they do sometimes come together in small groups called pods.

Despite their size, blue whales do not eat sharks or other big fish like tuna. Instead, they feast on tiny shrimp-like animals called krill. Blue whales have big plates full of bony, comb-like teeth in their mouths called baleen plates. The whale opens its mouth and fills it with salt water and krill. It filters the water out through the plates and the krill gets caught in the teeth, which the whale then eats. Blue whales can eat over 8,000 pounds of krill in a single day! Blue whales are also among the loudest animals on the planet and can produce sounds louder than a jet engine. They make a range of sounds including clicks, moans, and groans that can be heard by other blue whales up to 1,600 kilometers away!

14. The blue whale is _____.
- A. large, but smaller than a school bus
 - B. larger than the largest animal that ever lived on the Earth
 - C. large, but smaller than some dinosaurs