

Read the passage, answer the questions, and highlight information found in the text you used to answer the questions. Circle the main idea, and put a "?" next to words you don't know.

Blue Whale



What do you think the largest mammal is on Earth? If you said a Blue Whale, you would be right! Blue Whales are the largest mammals and can get between 70-100 feet in length on average. That is longer than two school buses. They can weigh up to 150 tons. With that huge body, you would think that these whales eat a lot of other big animals! Actually, they eat tiny organisms. They like plankton and krill, which they filter through baleen plates. They can actually eat up to 7,000 pounds of krill per day! Krill are small shrimp-like animals.

Blue Whales are found all over the world. They are gentle even though they are so huge. They live in small groups called "pods." Blue Whales breathe through a blowhole. They come up to the top of the water surface of the ocean to breathe, and then they dive deep into the ocean. Whales are mammals. Their babies are born big too! They are the largest animal babies on Earth averaging about 8,000 pounds and over 25 feet long.

Blue Whales are so large in size that they are rarely ever attacked. Because they are able to travel through the ocean without worrying about being hunted, they are known as apex predators, which means they are predators that don't have predators of their own.

1. How large are Blue Whales?

2. Explain what an apex predator is in wild life.

3. Which text structure did the author use to write the article? (circle one)

a. Informational

b. compare and contrast

4. What do Blue Whales eat?

5. Explain the size the babies when they are born.
