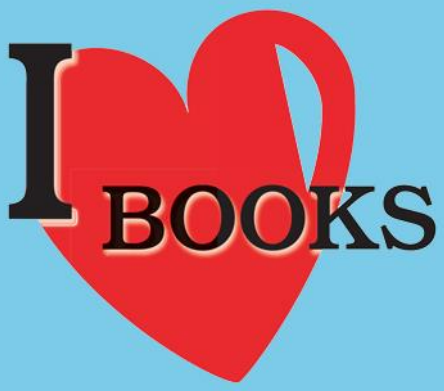


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extracts from

Atlas of Animal Adventures

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Published by

Frances Lincoln Children's Books

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First published in Great Britain in 2016 by Wide Eyed Editions,
an imprint of Aurum Press, 74–77 White Lion Street, London N1 9PF
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Barnard's Inn, 8b Fetter Lane, London, EC4A 1EN.

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-84780-792-2

Illustrated with coloured inks

Set in Festivo, Gabriela and Gill Sans Shadow

Designed by Joe Hales
Edited by Emily Hawkins
Published by Rachel Williams

Printed in Hong Kong

1 3 5 7 9 8 6 4 2

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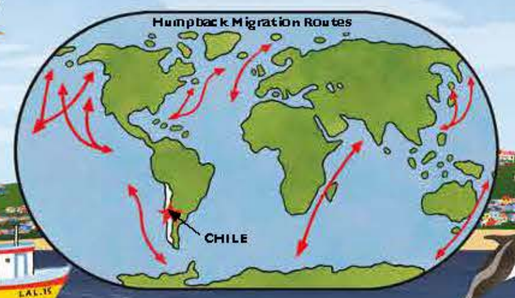
SIBERIAN TIGER, RUSSIA

Winters in far-eastern Russia are long and harsh. Snow and ice grip the land and temperatures plummet to -40° Celsius. A female tiger must provide plenty of food to keep her young cubs going through the freezing months. When the tiger cubs are between three and six months old, their constant demands for milk begin to irritate their mother, so she must teach them to hunt. With her cubs tumbling playfully at her heels, the mother leads them through the dark, snowy forest, following the scent of a young deer. When the tiger stops suddenly, so do the cubs, their heads cocked to one side, listening. They follow their mother, keeping low, out of sight. The tiger must get within 18 metres of her victim before pouncing, otherwise the deer might outrun her. Finally, when she is close enough, she hurtles forward, seizing the deer with a quick bite to the throat. The cubs look on, an important lesson learned.

A humpback's tail fin is like a giant fingerprint: the black-and-white markings are unique, which means that scientists can tell the whales apart.

The eerie 'song' of a humpback whale is a collection of moans, sighs and roars that can travel hundreds of kilometres underwater. Scientists think that the whale makes these sounds to attract mates.

Why do humpbacks leap from the water? It might be because the noise they make when they land sends messages to other whales; it might be to clean their skin; or it might be just for fun!



A humpback feeds on tiny creatures called krill. It opens its mouth and scoops in water, then forces the water out through a sievelike plate at the front of its mouth, leaving the krill behind.

Humpback whales often migrate in small groups, called pods. Mothers and calves travel together, sometimes touching each other with their flippers.

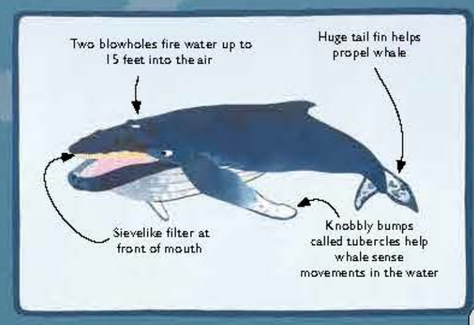
Measuring up to 5 metres in length, the flipper of a humpback whale is the longest appendage of any animal on Earth!

The heart of a humpback weighs nearly 200 kilograms, as much as three adult men.

In 2010, a lone female humpback travelled more than 9,800 kilometres from Brazil to Madagascar in the longest mammal migration ever recorded.

Although humpbacks must come to the surface to breathe, they can hold their breath underwater for up to 45 minutes.

Humpback calves don't stop growing until they are 10 years old! A full-grown whale can measure up to 19 metres long.



JOURNEYING SOUTH WITH THE

HUMPBACKS, CHILE

Whales are some of the most amazing animals on the planet. Not only are they the world's largest creatures, but they also undertake incredibly long journeys. Oceans have no walls, fences, roads or railways to cross, so it's easier for wildlife to travel huge distances than on land. And the humpback whale holds the record for the longest migration of any mammal, sometimes travelling more than 16,000 kilometres per year: nearly half the distance round the globe! As winter approaches in oceans all over the world, humpback whales migrate towards the equator, where they breed. Then, each spring, they return to their summer feeding grounds near the poles. Chile has over 4,000 kilometres of coastline, so its waters often host these mighty creatures as they make their lengthy journeys. Along the way, they perform impressive feats of acrobatics, often leaping almost clear of the water. Some humpbacks have been seen doing this 80 times in a row, which is astonishing, especially when you remember that they weigh about the same as 400 people!