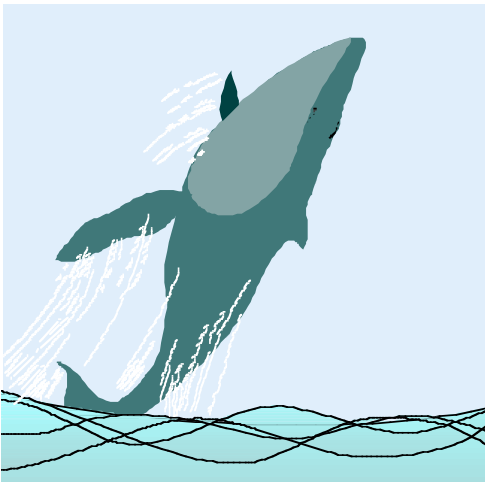


ACTIVITIES FOR "SING A WHALE SONG"

THEME: *Learning about whales and other animals enables us to help them survive in our environment.*

LANGUAGE ARTS: Listen to Tom Chapin's "Sing A Whale Song." The child telling the story becomes a whale and tells the story from the whale's point of view. When he turns back into a boy, he tells about what he saw and felt. Pick your favorite animal and write a story from their point of view. What would a bird see? A dog? A giraffe? A worm? An elephant? What type of home would you live in? What would you eat? Why would each animal be concerned about the environment? What would they want you to tell the world in order to save them and their homes?



POETRY:

Have fun experimenting with Haiku and review syllables at the same time. Haiku poetry has its origins in the Japanese culture and incorporates a nature theme into three lines:

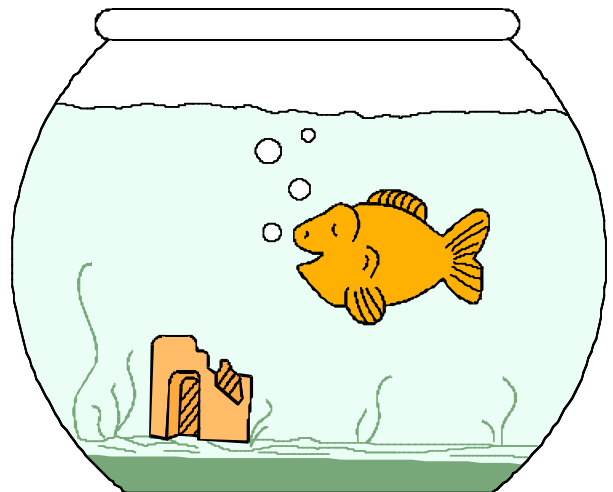
5 syllables - - - *Large and gray with fins*

7 syllables - - - *All swimming so gracefully*

5 syllables - - - *Help us save the whales*

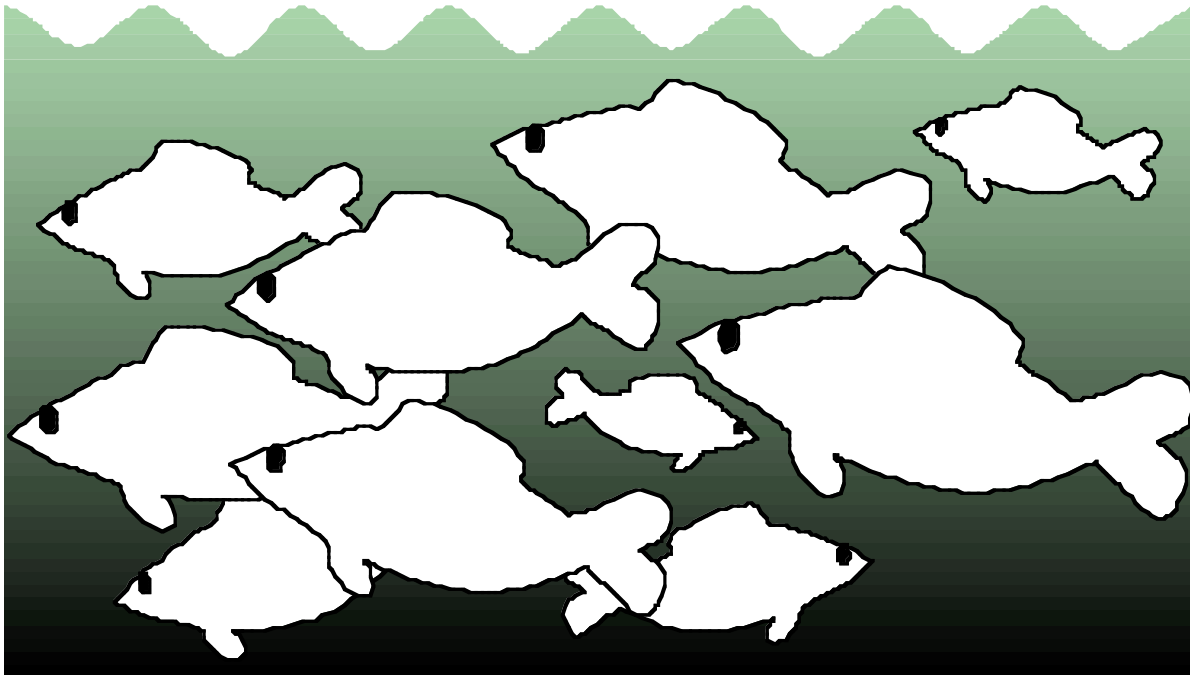
These short poems can be illustrated and bound into a class book or displayed on a class "Poet Tree" made from a branch of a tree.

SCIENCE: Set up an aquarium or a bowl of fish at your science table. Make a poster to hang above the aquarium that shows the parts of the fish (body, eyes, fins, gills, tail). Discuss the proper care of fish and let the children take turns with the feeding. Have children record their observations of the fish in their journals, drawing pictures of what is observed and / or writing observations as a narrative.



ACTIVITIES FOR "SING A WHALE SONG" (continued)

ART: Have children paint a large sheet of butcher paper with diluted blue tempera paint. When the paint is dry, give each child a paper plate with a triangular mouth shape drawn on one side. Have the children cut out the triangles, then glue the triangular pieces on the opposite sides of their plates to make tails. Let the children complete their fish by drawing on eyes and coloring them. These can now be glued to the paper "ocean" and displayed as an ocean life mural.



CLASSIFICATION: Purchase several different kinds and colors of small plastic fish. Place them all in a basket. Let the children take turns sorting them by color, shape and by size.

RELATED LITERATURE:

All About Whales / Dorothy Hinshaw Patent * Holiday House

Whalewatch / June Behrens * Children's Press

The Life Cycle of the Whale / Paula Z. Hogan * Raintree Publishing

Humphrey The Lost Whale / Wendy Jokuda * Heian International

Jack, the Seal and the Sea / G. Aschenbrenner * Silver Burdett

Who's Hiding Here? / Yoshi * Picture Book Studio