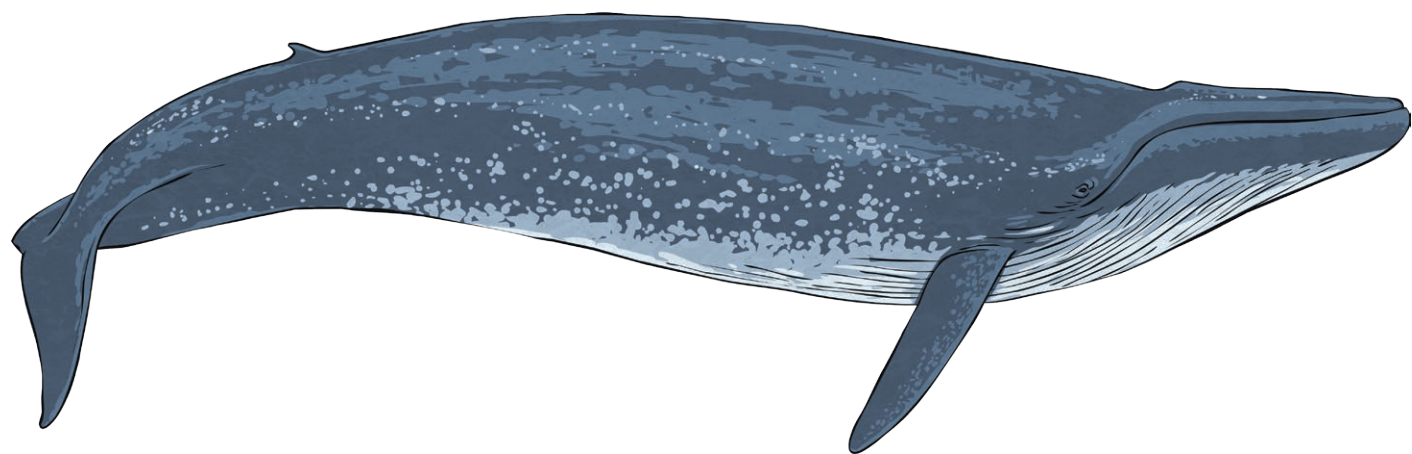


Blue Whale

When it comes to size, you can't get much bigger than the blue whale. In fact, it's the largest animal to have ever lived on Earth – even larger than any dinosaur! With its tongue as heavy as an elephant and a heart as large as a car, a blue whale can weigh as much as 200 tons. That's about the same as 16 double-decker buses! Here are some more amazing facts about these ocean-living creatures.



Mini Fact-file
Type: Mammal
Diet: Krill – small shrimp-like animals no larger than a paper clip!
Length: Up to 30 metres - about the same as 5 great white sharks!
Average life span: Up to 90 years

Did you know?
Blue whales are one of the loudest animals on Earth and can hear each other up to 1000 miles away!
Endangered
Blue whales were once almost hunted to extinction. They are now protected but are still an endangered species with less than 25,000 left in the wild.



1. True or false? The blue whale is bigger than any dinosaur that ever lived.



2. Draw a line to the correct number:

- a) the distance blue whales can hear
- b) the life span of a blue whale
- c) the weight of a blue whale
- d) the length of a blue whale

- 80 years
- 30 metres
- 200 tons
- 1000 miles



3. In the text, blue whales are described as 'ocean-living creatures'. Think of two other ways to describe them and write them below:



4. Blue whales are described as 'endangered'. What do you think that means?

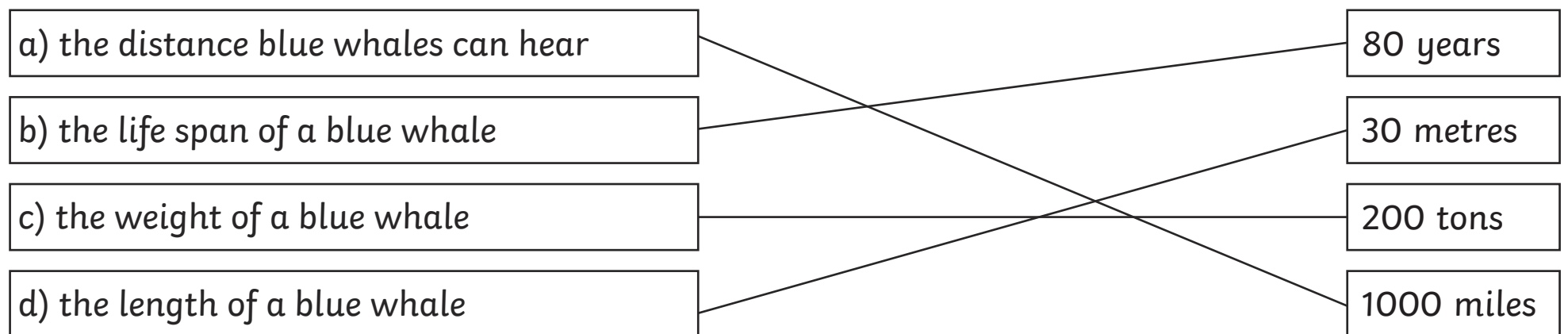
Blue Whale

Answers

1. True or false? The blue whale is bigger than any dinosaur that ever lived.

True

2. Draw a line to the correct number:



3. In the text, blue whales are described as 'ocean-living creatures'. Think of two other ways to describe them and write them below:

Give two marks for any suitable whale- themed description/name – particularly if taken from facts in the text, e.g: 200-ton beasts, endangered species, krill-eating mammals.

4. Blue whales are described as 'endangered'. What do you think that means?

Accept any answer from:

Endangered means:

- **that there are not many of the creature left in the wild.**
- **that a species is in danger of dying out/threatened with extinction.**