



Blue whale  
(*Balaenoptera musculus*)



Gray whale  
(*Eschrichtius robustus*)



Northern right whale  
(*Balaena glacialis*)



Sperm whale  
(*Physeter macrocephalus*)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Student Worksheet #3

### Whale family chart instructions

1. Compare the family characteristics below with the pictures of the whales on page 10. Select the family that best matches the whale's features. Complete the sheet by putting the whale into the correct family.
2. Place the whale from your whale report into the proper family.
3. Match the following whales to family characteristics and complete the chart: humpback, bow-head, fin, sei, pygmy right, minke, and Bryde's whale. Use the Web to gather information about each species of whale.

#### Suborder Mysticeti

##### Common Name

##### Genus

##### Family Characteristics

##### Rorqual Family

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These whales have throat grooves that extend from the mouth to the flipper area or further. The folds of skin and blubber expand the capacity of the mouth during feeding.

##### Gray Whale Family

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Members of this family have no dorsal fin or throat grooves. They have two to seven short deep creases on their throats.

##### Right Whale Family

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Members of this family lack throat grooves. They have very large heads that make up  $\frac{1}{3}$  of their total body. They also have very long baleen.

#### Suborder Odontoceti

##### Sperm Whale Family

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This group of whales has a huge, square head that makes up over 35 percent of the total body. It has a skull depression that is filled with a fine oil called spermaceti. This is the only great whale family that has teeth.