



# Who's Who?

## Introduction

Like people, each orca looks a little different. Over the years, scientists have photographed and identified all the individual orcas in Granny's clan. They discovered that each orca has a natural "fingerprint" with unique orca features such as: the **size** and **shape** of the **dorsal fin**, the shape of the gray **saddle patch** and any **nicks** or **cuts**. By recognizing individual animals, scientists can count the orca population, understand their family relationships, interpret their behavior, learn about how they use their habitat and predict their food requirements. This orca family album is called a photo ID catalog. Each orca has been given a 3-part *orca ID*: a **letter** (indicates family pod - **J, K or L**), an individual **number**, and a **name**. For example: Granny is J-2.

## Key Concepts

- ◆ Scientists can recognize and identify individual orcas using photo ID.
- ◆ Each orca has a unique set of features (dorsal fin, saddle-patch, nicks/scars) that is like a "**fingerprint.**"
- ◆ An orca's ID includes pod letter, individual number and name.
- ◆ Humans have names, physical features, numbers and fingerprints that help identify them.

## National Science Education Standards

### Science as Inquiry:

- Ability to Do Scientific Inquiry, Understanding About Scientific Inquiry (K-4)

### Life Science:

- Characteristics of Organisms. Organisms and their Environments (K-4)
- Characteristics and Changes in Populations. Changes in Environments (K-4)

### National Council for Teachers of English/ International Reading Association Standards:

4. Students adjust their use of spoken, written and visual language to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.
8. Students use a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.
12. Students use spoken, written and visual language to accomplish their own purposes.

## Inquiry Questions

- ◆ How do scientists recognize individual orcas?
- ◆ How are orca and human fingerprints similar? Different?
- ◆ Why is it important for scientists to be able to recognize individual orcas?
- ◆ What clues do other people use to recognize and identify you?
- ◆ If you were an orca, how would you be able to recognize individual humans?

# Who's Who? (Continued pg 2)

## Activity #1- Orca Trading Cards

In this activity, students learn how to identify individual orcas in Granny's clan.

**Materials Needed:** blank index cards, markers, colored pencils, glue

**Procedure:**

1. Students observe and compare orca differences.  
Go to the Center for Whale Research to look for **orca fingerprint** clues:  
[http://www.whaleresearch.com/orca\\_ID.html](http://www.whaleresearch.com/orca_ID.html)  
**Dorsal fin Size:** Adult male – 6 ft. Adult female –3 ft. Juvenile – 2 ft.  
**Dorsal fin shape:** wavy, pointed, curved, tall  
**Saddle-patch:** gray, open or closed swirls  
**Nicks or scars**
2. Each student is assigned an orca in Granny's clan to identify. Distribute **Orca Trading Cards** with the pod letter and number of the student's assigned orca.
3. Students learn more about their orca, such as: name, age, sex, relatives, etc.  
Go to Orca Adoption Program at The Whale Museum to find information about each orca:  
<http://www.whale-museum.org/programs/orcadoptio/whalelist.html>
4. Students complete an Orca Trading Card for their assigned orca, including a drawing of the orca's dorsal fin and saddle-patch.
5. When the Orca Trading Card is complete, glue to blank index card.
6. Display Orca Trading Cards on bulletin board.

## Activity #2- My Orca ID

In this activity, students learn how to create an individual orca ID.

**Materials Needed:** Inkpad, art materials

**Procedure:**

1. Distribute and complete **My Orca ID** worksheet.
2. Students imagine that they are members of Granny's clan and create their own orca identity.  
Draw yourself as orca and create your own "**orca fingerprint**" with your own unique dorsal fin and saddle patch. Join one of the pods and give yourself an orca name, letter (J, K, or L) and number.

**Discuss:** Compare your human and orca fingerprints with other students. How are they similar? Different?

## Activity #3- Make Orca Dorsal Headband

In this activity, students make an orca dorsal fin headband with characteristics similar to their individual orca ID.

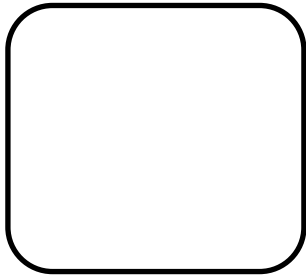
**Materials Needed:** black construction paper, tape, markers, glue sticks, stapler, scissors, elastic

**Procedure:**

1. Draw a dorsal fin pattern on poster board to make template.
2. Use template to draw outline on two pieces of black construction paper for each student.
3. Each student cuts out two dorsal fins. Tape fins together along front of dorsal. On back of dorsal, run tape part way down. Leave rest open to spread over head.
4. Personalize with your own "**orca fingerprint**."
5. Cut out 1" wide strips of black construction paper for headband.
6. Attach headband to bottom of dorsal fin with staples facing out.
7. Staple 6" strip of elastic to one side. Measure on head to fit. Staple elastic on other side.
8. Decorate with name, art materials and stickers.

*Granny's Clan: A Tale of Wild Orcas*  
Dr. Sally Hodson

## ORCA TRADING CARD

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ORCA ID</b></p> <p>Name _____ Pod _____ Number _____ Age _____ Birth year _____ Male or Female _____</p> <p><b><i>Information:</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Relatives:</i></b></p> <div data-bbox="894 779 1198 1052" style="text-align: center;"></div>
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## MY ORCA ID

My Human Name

My Human Fingerprint

Use inkpad to place your human fingerprint.

My Human Self-Portrait: Draw your human self.

Imagine that you are an orca in Granny's clan. Draw yourself as orca and create your own "**Orca Fingerprint**" with your own unique dorsal fin and saddle patch. Join one of the pods and give yourself an orca name, letter (J, K, or L) and number (choose any number over #200).

My Orca Pod \_\_\_\_\_ My Orca Number \_\_\_\_\_ My Orca Name \_\_\_\_\_

My orca dorsal fin and saddle-patch