

Tracking Whales Tear Art

WhaleTimes

ACTIVITY: Gray whales tear art

GRADE LEVEL(S): 2nd to 6th



30 minutes each

OVERVIEW: Create a piece of art that shows the science

DISCIPLINES: Science, language arts, visual arts

OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to:

- describe and discuss gray whale migration
- discuss how and why scientists count gray whales
- explain how scientists use landmarks at the Piedras Blancas Field Station to track, photograph, and count whales
- create a visual example of a gray whale passing the Piedras Blancas Field Station



MATERIALS: • Paper plates: round, approx 10.5-inch diameter, 1 per student

• Construction paper (8- x 12-inch):

Pre-cut light blue half-circles 1 per student

Pre-cut black 8 x 12 frame 1 per student

Paper scraps to be torn by students: Dark blue, light blue, brown.

• Glue sticks (non-toxic and child-safe)

• Cottonball: (1 per 5+ students)

Preparation:

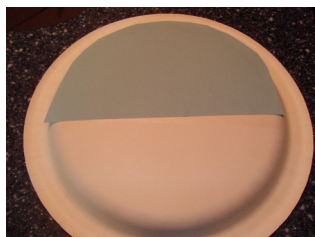
1. Measure or cut out the bottom of one paper plate to help determine the sizes of the sky and center circle of frame.
2. Pre-cut light blue half-circles to make sky. The size should be slightly larger than bottom of plate.
3. Pre-cut frame from black paper. Cut circle in center of paper. The circle should be slightly smaller than the bottom of the plate.

What to do:

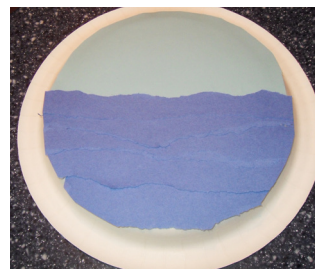
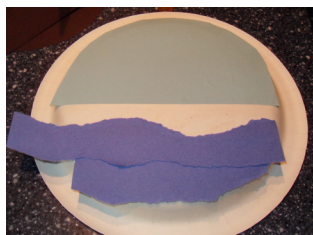
This is a fun, simple activity that creates a pretty piece of art -- and a record of the research from Piedras Blancas. This activity works for any age. If you want to combine the art with the science even further, this craft can also be used with the *ID That Whale* and *Tracking Whales at Piedras Blancas* activities.

Use the following steps to lead students through the steps of creating this craft.

Step 1 Glue light blue paper to top half of the bottom of a paper plate. You can tear or cut the paper. Trim if you'd like.



Step 2 Tear dark blue paper to create water. Glue from bottom of circle up to recreate direction of waves. Trim if you'd like.



Step 3



Tear brown paper to create rock formations. Glue to paper plate.

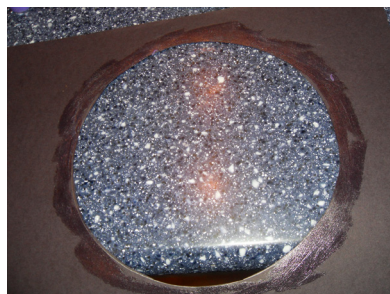
Steps 4 and 5



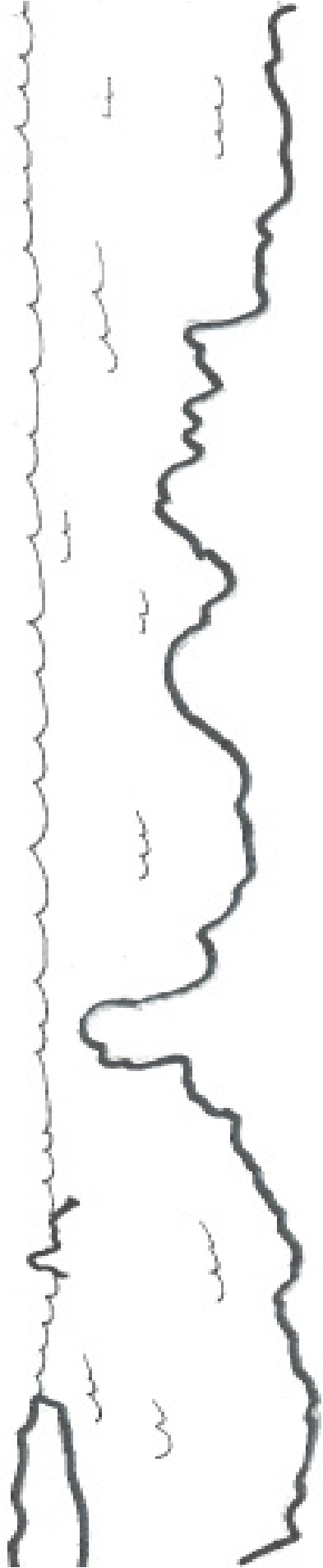
Tear gray paper to create the visible part of the gray whale. Some kids might want a tail, others the head.

Use a tiny bit of cotton to recreate the blow of an exhaling whale.

Step 6 To create the view (frame) from the “big eyes” add the frame. Add glue around the circle's edge. Turn over and glue to plate.



Step 7 Decorate your classroom. Use Tracking Whales at Piedras Blancas Virtual Team Member Activity.



Date: _____ Time: _____ VTM: _____

Weather					
Visibility					
Beaufort (seas)					
Location					
Animal(s)	Number: _____	Cow/calf	Juvenile	Adult	Unknown
Behavior	Estimated Size _____				
Other					