

Vaquita Puppet

ACTIVITY: Make a vaquita puppet and role-play its behavior



GRADE LEVEL(S): K to 4th



30 minutes

OVERVIEW: What body parts does a porpoise need to swim and dive?

DISCIPLINES: Science, Visual Arts, role-play

OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to:

- demonstrate how a vaquita swims
- name two prey items of a vaquita
- describe how vaquita locate food
- name three adaptations of a vaquita
- tell where a vaquita

MATERIALS: • Construction paper, gray (or *variety of colors) activity/teacher prep)

• Crayons (black)

• 1 inch elastic band

• glue sticks

• small paper plates (one per student)

• Stapler and staples, scissors, ruler, marker (for

OPTIONAL:

• glitter -black (or black glitter glue)

• glue

• wiggly eyes

*Science vs craft fun: Vaquita are medium gray on top, the gray fades to light gray then white on the belly. The fin, flippers, and tail are often dark gray. However, a colorful puppet might add some fun to your activities. If you use a variety of colors, we recommend you discuss the difference between a real vaquita's coloration and the colorful craft, then let students be choose the colors they want for their puppet.

WHAT TO DO:

Preparation:

Puppet body:

- Print a set of puppet body parts for each student. We have made a couple versions. Each requires a bit more gluing and/or coloring. Determine which works best for the age group/time limits.

OR

• If using construction paper, make a reusable vaquita pattern. Print attached patterns onto card stock and cut out. Or, print the patterns on to regular paper, cut out, and then trace onto a file folder. Cut out.

• Trace puppet parts on to gray construction paper. Cut out. For each student, you'll need: 1 body; 1 dorsal fin; 1 tail, and 2 pectoral flippers. Add a fold at the base of each flipper and a cut and fold onto the bottom of the dorsal fin. These will help the flippers and fin stick out or stand up.

- Pre-make puppet base, one for each student.



How to make the base of the hand puppet

Puppet base: Follow the instructions below to make a puppet base for each student. You'll need the paper plate, ruler, marker, elastic, scissors, stapler/staples.

- Cut 2.5 inch wide rectangular shape from small paper plate, 1 per student (FIGURE 1)
- Cut a 2.5 inch long slit in center front (short side of strip). (FIGURE 2) Cross over and staple. (FIGURES 3 A-C) The dart adds shape and allows flexibility so puppet moves easier on child's wrist. NOTE: Staple so ends of staple away from student's skin.

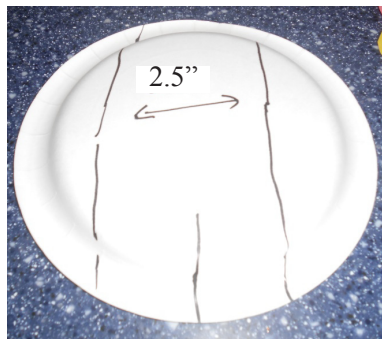
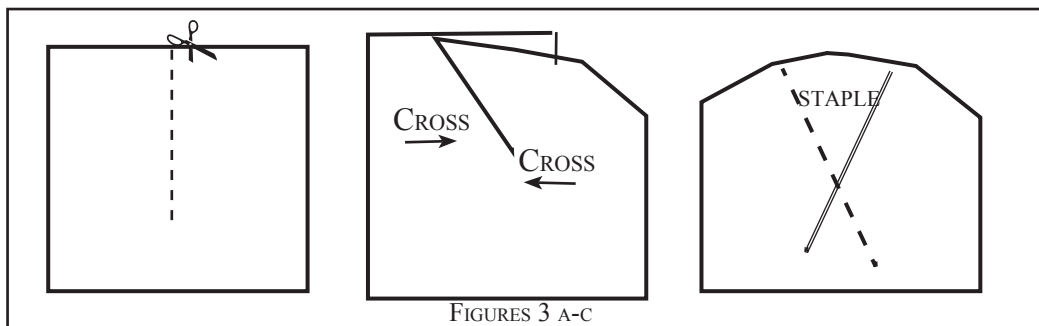


FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2

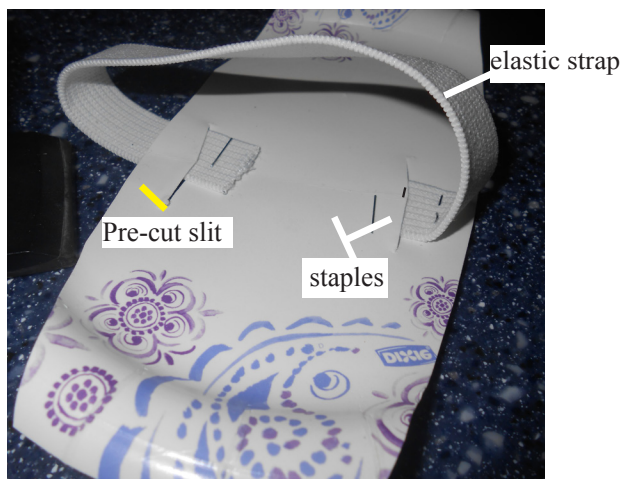


FIGURES 3 A-C

- Add strap: Determine the length of elastic wrist strap needed based on average size/age of students in class. (approximately 4 to 6 inches).

- Cut one elastic strip per student.

- Staple the strap on to each side of the paper plate strip. To give it a bit more stability, you may choose to add a slit on each side and weave the elastic through, then staple. Or just staple to each side.



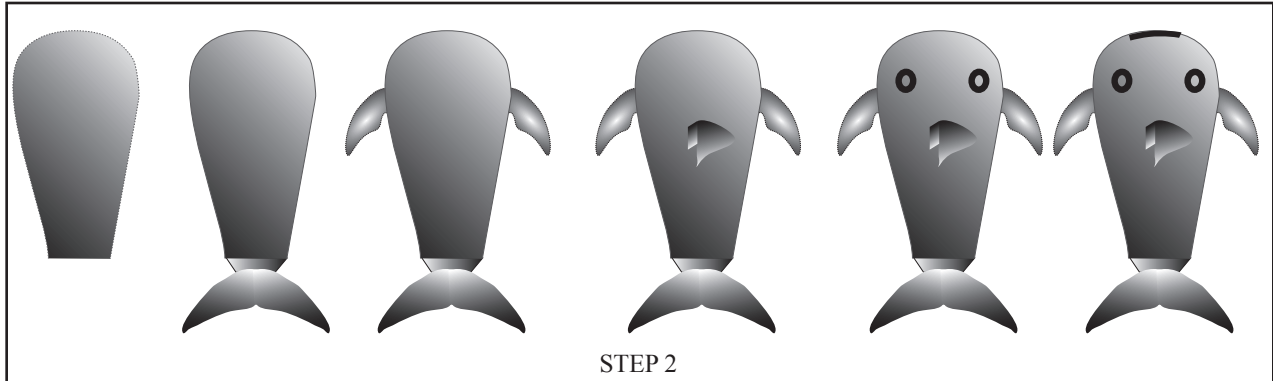
View of underside of puppet



Create the Craft

STEP 1: Show students an example of the puppet they will make. Then give each student a vaquita body.

STEP 2: Give students body parts one at a time. Discuss each body part, how it is used and demonstrate where to glue it on their puppet. Have students glue the tail, flippers, and dorsal fin. Have students draw in eye rings and lips



STEP 3: Give each student a puppet base. Have them cover the top with glue. (You might want to show them how it will fit over their wrist when the puppet is finished.)

STEP 4: Have students gently place their vaquita on top of the glue-covered puppet base.

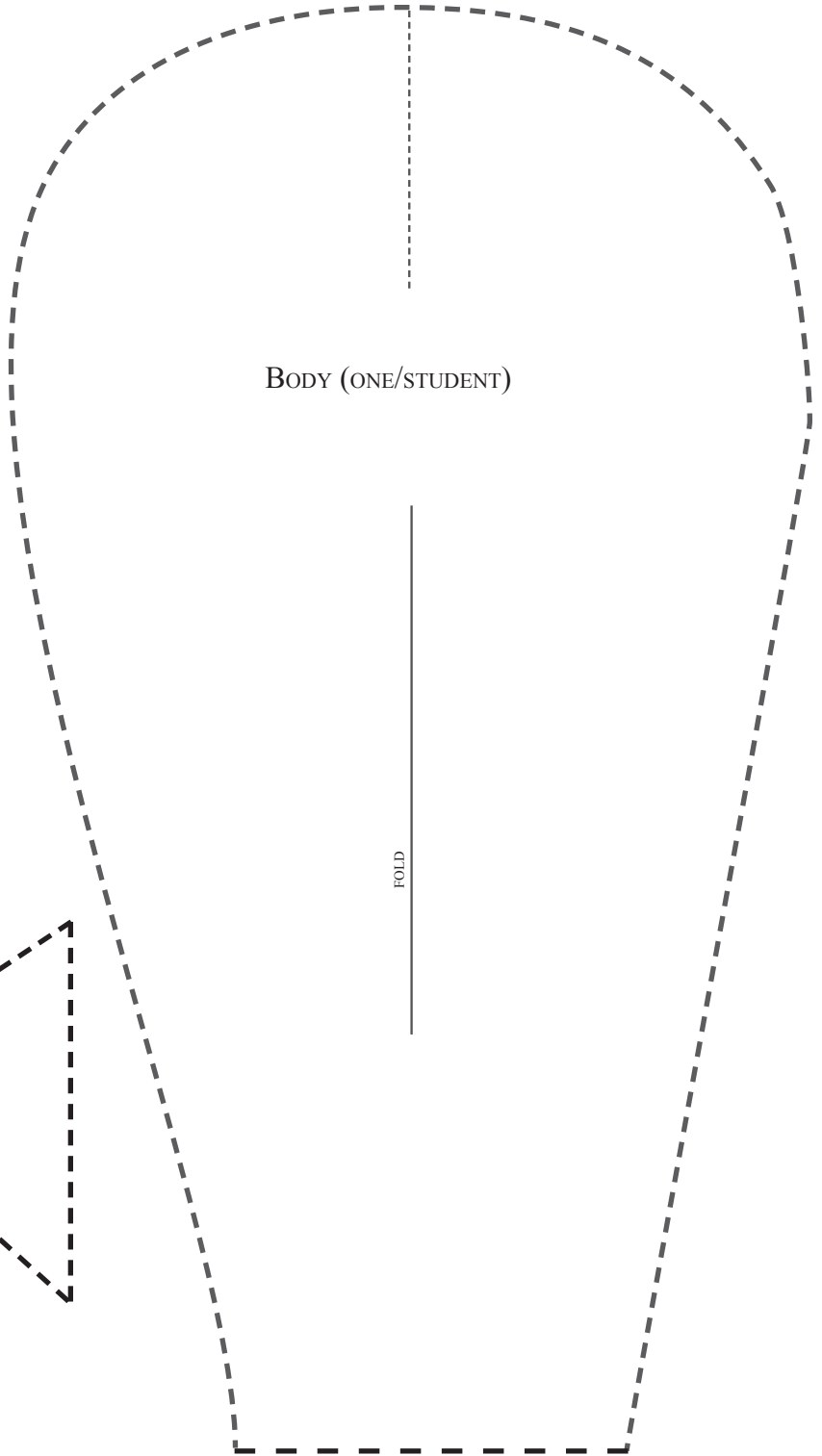
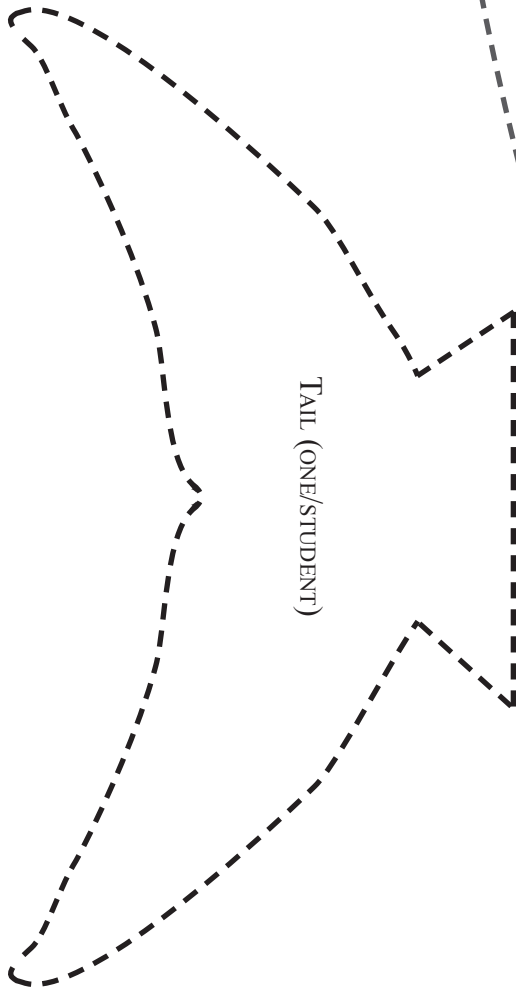
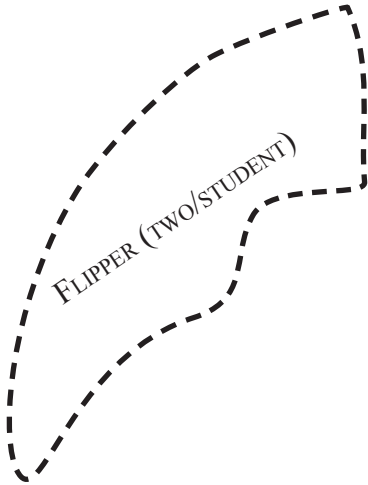
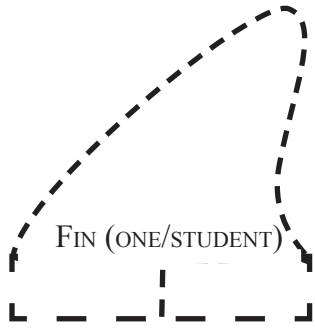


STEP 5: To give the vaquita a bit of natural shape, either an adult or the students can put a gently fold down the center of the vaquita puppet.

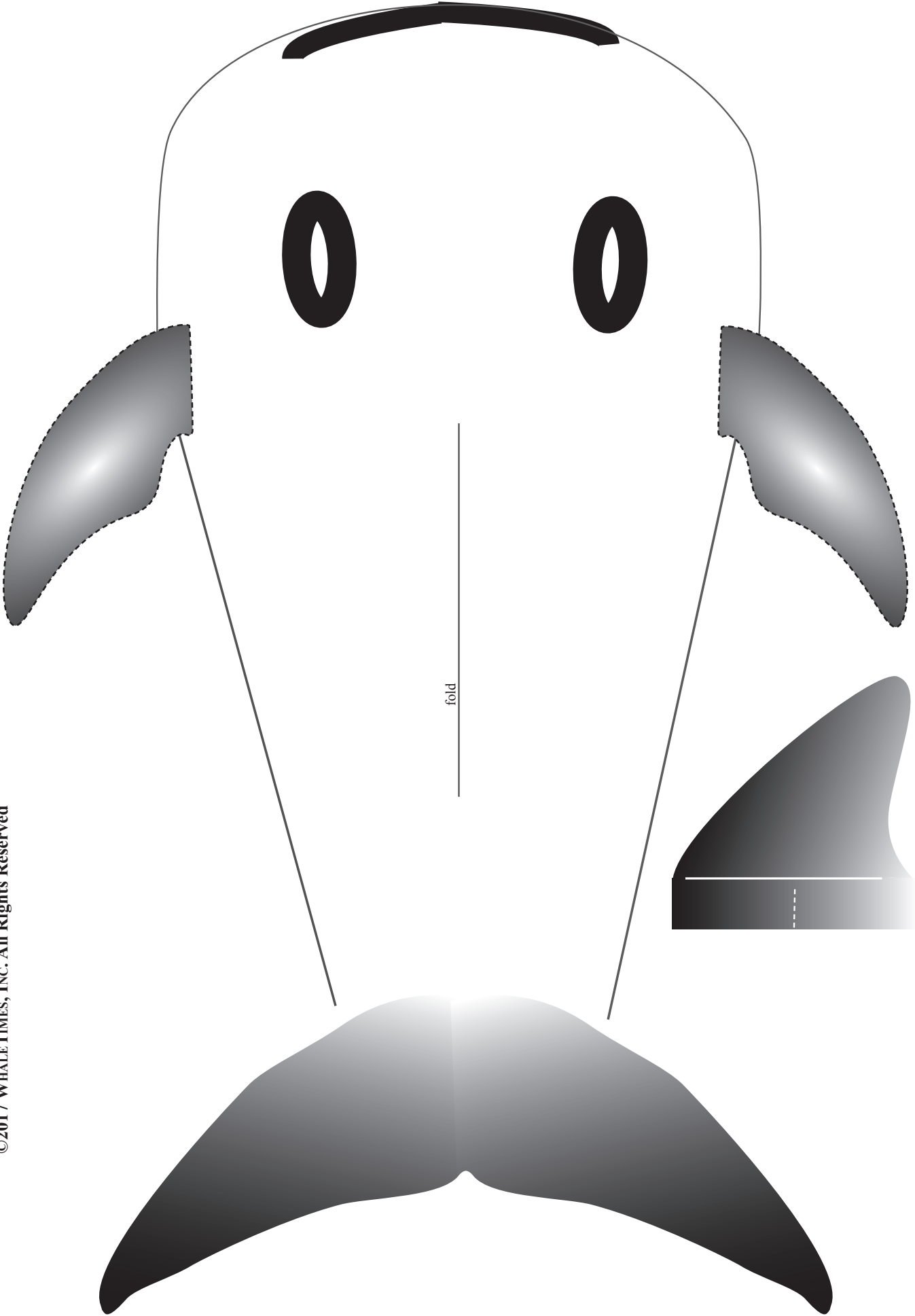
STEP 6: OPTIONAL Bring the vaquita’s face to life with glitter and wiggly eyes. Add black glitter (or glitter glue) to the eye rings and lips. Allow glitter and wiggly eye glue to dry before students begin role-playing with their puppets.

STEP 7: Have students put on puppet. Have students swim, dive, and hunt like a vaquita. Discuss the adaptations used to do the behaviors, such as using the tail to swim.

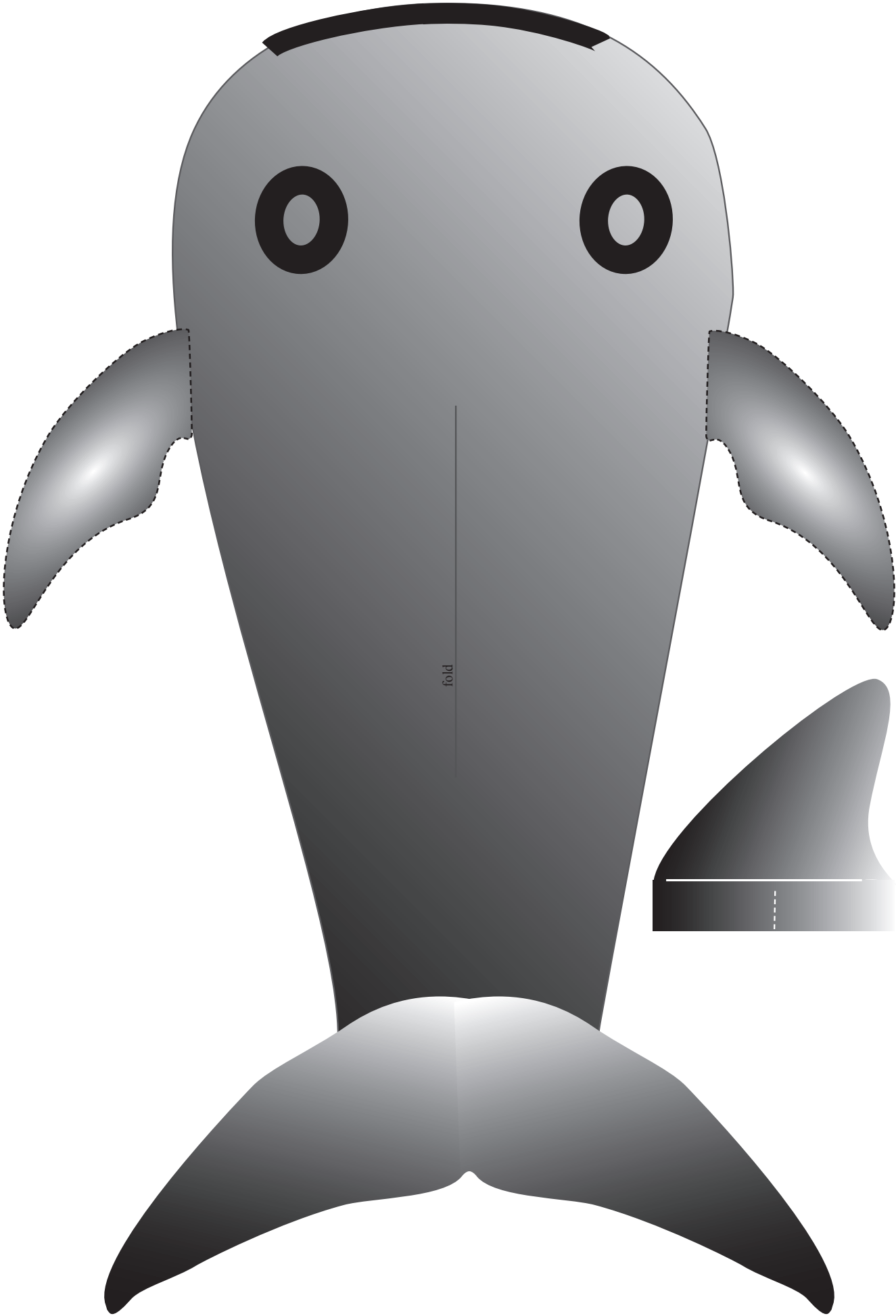
VAQUITA PUPPET PATTERN: Print or trace on to construction paper



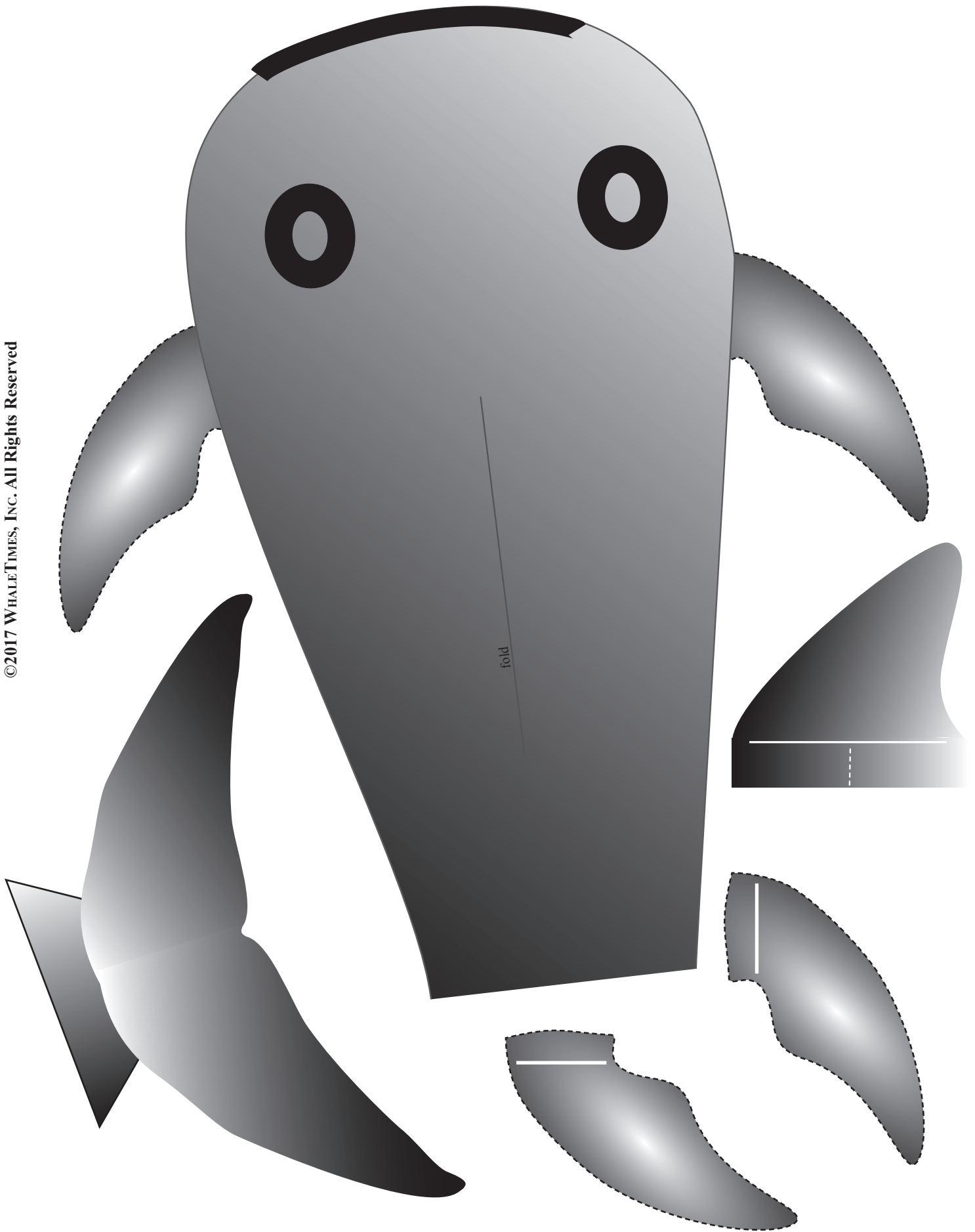
VAQUITA PUPPET PATTERN: Photocopy and cut out one set for each student.



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