

Whales are not fish - in fact, they are large marine mammals. This means that they must breath air from the surface, are warm blooded, give birth to live young, and nourish their babies with milk.

Blue whales are the largest animals ever discovered on earth, bigger even than the elephant or the dinosaurs. Although enormous, though, whales are generally peaceful animals. Divers often swim alongside whales, and many tourists enjoy getting a close glimpse from a small boat.

The baleen whales eat some of the smallest animals on earth - tiny shrimp called krill. These whales feed by opening their giant mouths to let in large amounts of water. Then, the whales force the water out of their mouths, catching tiny morsels in their baleen, or brush-like teeth.

Would you like to draw your very own whale? Now you can, using this easy, step-by-step drawing tutorial. All you will need is a piece of paper and a pencil. You may also want to use markers, paints, crayons, or colored pencils to shade your finished drawing.

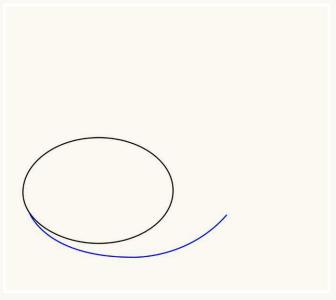
Notice that in each step of this drawing guide, new lines to be added are highlighted in blue. Some steps will require you to erase lines drawn in previous steps, so you may want to have an eraser handy as you dive in to this deep sea drawing tutorial.

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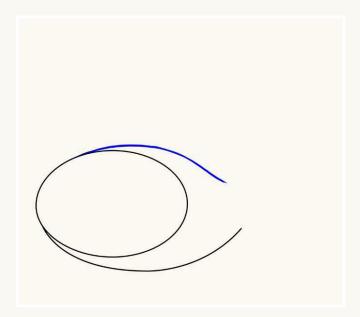
## Step-by-step Instructions for a Whale



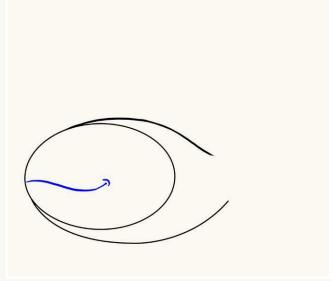
Begin by drawing a large oval. This will outline the whale's head.



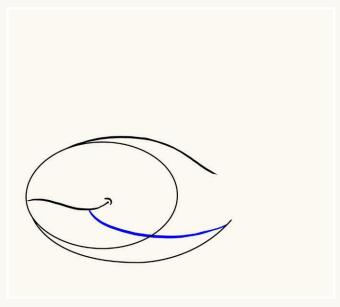
Beneath the oval, draw a long, curved line to form the whale's stomach.



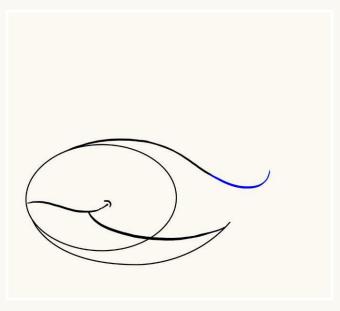
Draw another curved line from the top of the oval, to outline the top of the whale's head and back.



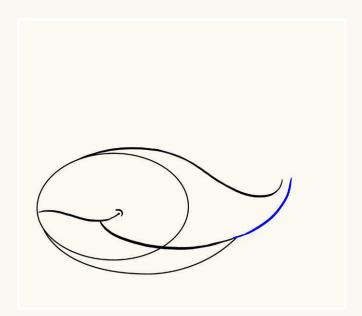
Draw a curved line to form the mouth. Detail the corner of the mouth using a short, curved line.



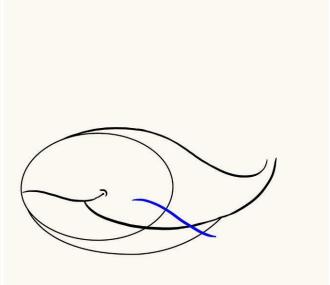
Draw a curved line from the mouth to the line of the stomach.



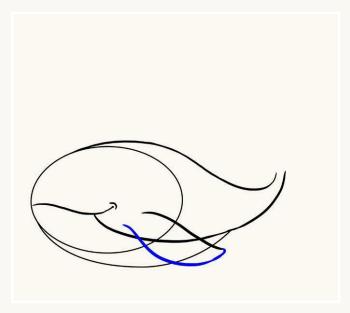
Extend the back using a curved line.



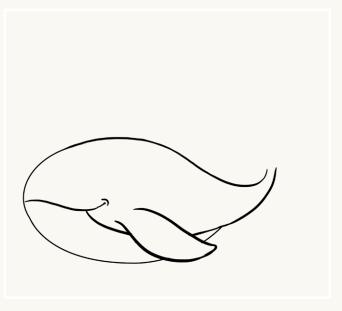
Draw a curved line extending from the stomach. Note how this line nears the line of the back, narrowing the figure to accommodate the tail.



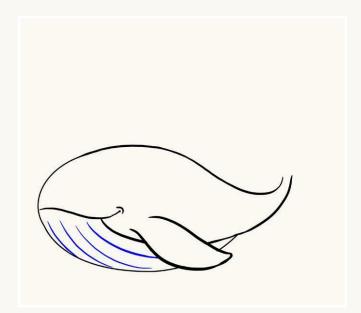
Draw a curved line extending from the middle of the whale. This will form the pectoral fin.



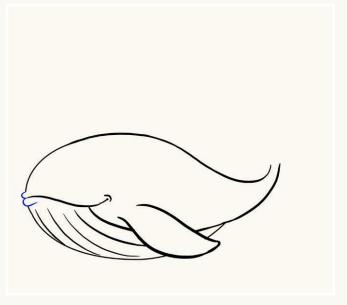
Draw another curved line to form the bottom side of the pectoral fin.



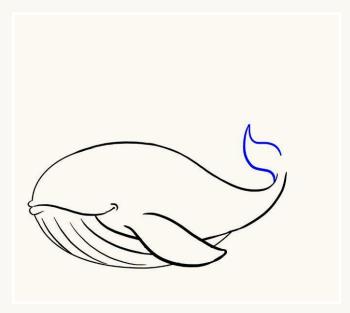
Erase the guide lines from the whale's body and face.



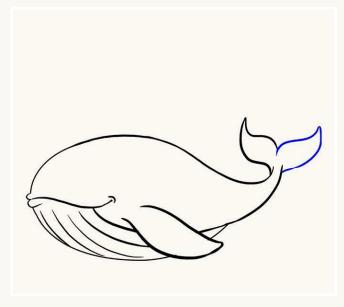
Draw curved lines from the mouth to the belly. This indicates the ribbed texture of the stomach of humpback whales and some other varieties.



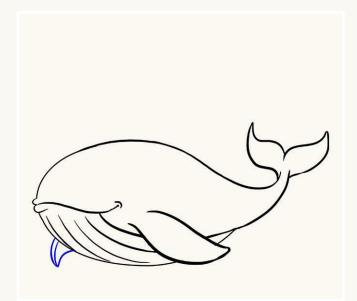
Draw two curved lines at the tip of the mouth to form lips.



Draw two curved lines extending from one side of the tail, allowing the lines to meet at a sharp point. This forms one half of the tail fin.

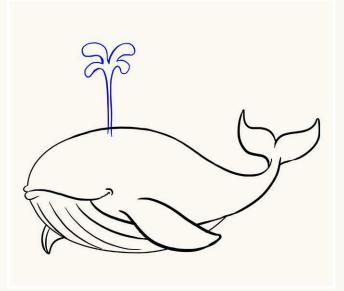


Repeat this process to draw a mirror image on the opposite side, completing the tail fin.

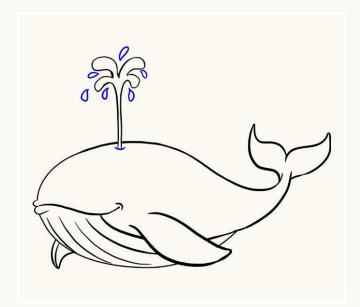


Draw a curved triangle extending from the whale's belly to indicate the pectoral fin on the opposite side.

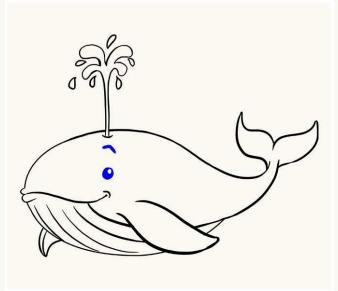
Draw a curved line down the length of the fin.



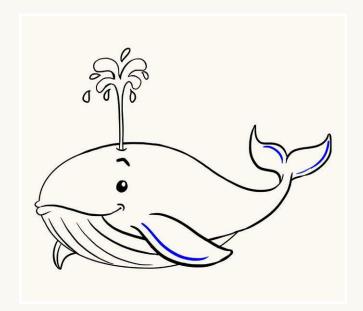
Draw water spurting from the whale's head. Begin by drawing long, vertical, parallel lines. At the top of the lines, enclose a number of rounded shapes to resemble splashing water.



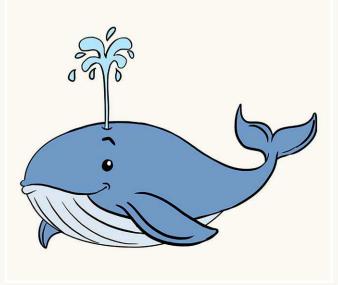
Indicate the blowhole by drawing a curved line at the bottom of the column of water. Draw teardrop shapes around the water to indicate splashing droplets.



Draw a circle to form the eye. Make the eye sparkle by drawing a small circle within it, and shade the eye. Draw a curved line above the eye to form an eyebrow.



Add depth to the drawing by adding curved lines to the pectoral fin and tail fins.



Color your whale. In nature, whales often appear gray or blue in color.

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