

Echolocation game

You need:

- A large open space
- A blindfold

Discover how toothed whales and dolphins catch their prey.



- 1** Go to an open space, like your school grounds or hall.
- 2** Ask the children to stand in a circle.
- 3** Choose one child, who is comfortable wearing a blindfold, to play the orca (killer whale). They will stand in the middle of the circle wearing the blindfold.
- 4** Choose another child to play the fish. They will also stand in the middle of the circle.
- 5** The aim of the game is for the orca to catch the fish using echolocation. The child playing the orca shouts “fish!” as often as they like, and each time the child playing the fish must immediately reply by also shouting “fish!”. The orca needs to follow the sound to tag the fish.

Ask the children standing in the circle to keep the orca safe and gently steer them back towards the middle if needed.

Echolocation game - extension

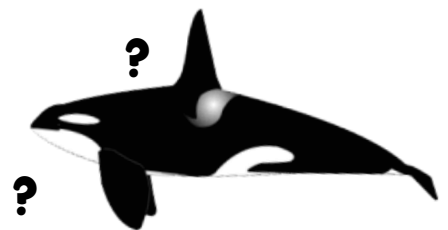
What can make it easier or harder for whales and dolphins to catch their prey using echolocation?



1

Whales and dolphins often work together to catch their prey. Choose two children to wear blindfolds to work together to catch the fish. Did the fish find it harder to escape?

Sometimes whales and dolphins work together to chase fish into a smaller space to make it easier to catch them. Ask the children forming the circle to take a step closer to shrink the circle. Did this make it easier for the orcas to catch their prey?



2

Whales and dolphins are finding it more difficult to catch their prey using echolocation because of the noise pollution created by human activities, for example boats, military exercises, and drilling for oil. Ask the children standing in a circle to make noise by clapping their hands and stamping their feet throughout the game. Can the orca still catch the fish?

Whales and dolphins might also feed on pieces of plastic they find. For example, plastic bags can seem a lot like a tasty jellyfish. Find out more with our **Litter and Pollution** resources.