

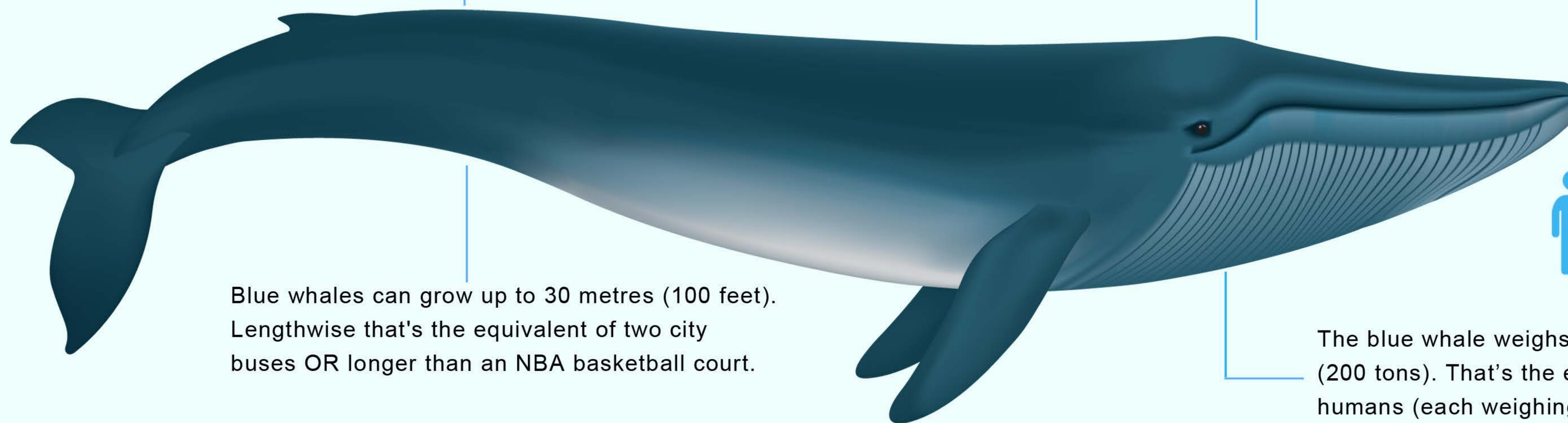
# THE BLUE WHALE

## Fact Sheet

The oldest blue whale was determined to be around 110 years old. The average lifespan of a blue whale is estimated at around 80 to 90 years.

A blue whale's blowhole is like a huge pair of nostrils, which can reach up to 50 centimetres (20 inches) in length. The spray from a blue whale's blowhole can shoot as high as 9 metres (30 feet) into the air.

Blue whales are the largest animals ever known to have lived on Earth. Its tongue alone can weigh as much as an elephant.



Blue whales can grow up to 30 metres (100 feet). Lengthwise that's the equivalent of two city buses OR longer than an NBA basketball court.



The blue whale weighs about 181 tonnes (200 tons). That's the equivalent of 2667 humans (each weighing 70kg / 154lbs).



### Diet

The blue whale's main food source is krill, a shrimplike crustacean. A blue whale can eat up to 40 million krill per day.



### Speed

Blue whales can reach speeds of 50 kilometres (31 miles) per hour over short bursts, but 20 kilometres (12 miles) per hour is a more typical travelling speed.



### Sound

The blue whale is much louder than a jet, which reaches only 140 decibels! The call of the blue whale reaches levels of up to 188 decibels.



### Whale Classification

Blue whales belong to the "Baleen Whales" group. Instead of having teeth, blue whales have up to 395 hard and bristle-like baleen plates inside their mouth.

