Northern Pacific Humpback Whale Migrations

Winter Mating & Birthing Grounds

Hawaiian Islands

Summer Fishing & Feeding grounds

Bering Sea

The United States

Canada

Mexico

South America

Alaska

The Pacific Ocean

Australia

China

Japan

Hawaii

Oahu

Molokai

Kauai

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Aloha Kakou

It is our sincere pleasure to again be able to bring our pair of Pacific Humpback Whales to the keiki of Hawaii in our 2012 Harmony & Melody’s Excellent Adventure Tour.

This year our tour theme is Whale Migrations. We think that young people can understand the “why” and the “how” of whale migrations, and we encourage school faculty to create learning opportunities for students to understand more about these magnificent creatures.

There are many people to thank for this years Adventure Tour. In particular Mr. Al Castle, of the Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation, who have provided start up funding for this the 2nd year of the project. Additionally, thanks to the hard work of Monika Mira of Lucid Publishing we have this beautiful coloring page of our Pacific Humpback Whale feeding and birthing migrations. Thanks also to the whales’ creator Evelyn Roth who has provided the pair with a make over of new fabric, paint and even a functional blow hole. The Koholā song is provided by Kumu Punohu Meade and the children and faculty of Punana Leo Schools of Hawaii.

Please, take time to explain the concept of migrations to your students and encourage them to color the reverse side of this page. If there is exceptional work done by your keiki either on our coloring page or their own creations, please send them to Storybook Theatre PO Box 820 Hana-pepe HI 96716 and we will share their work with others.

Pacific Humpback Whale Migration Facts

The combination of long summer days and nutrient rich Alaskan water create the perfect conditions for the algal growth that feeds the tons of fish and krill that will in turn feed the Pacific Humpback whales. These whales spend the summer in icy Alaskan waters stocking up on food before making their annual migration to warmer waters for breeding and birthing. The whales are divided into three groups: some travel to the warmer waters of Baja, Mexico, others to Japan, but the majority (about 60%) will migrate to Hawaiian waters. They begin to leave Alaskan waters in the late fall and travel nearly non-stop at an average speed of about 1mph. Their journey takes 6-8 weeks. Nursing females and juveniles arrive first, beginning in late November. Males arrive next. Finally pregnant moms who stayed behind until the last minute to stock up on food will arrive last. They will then spend the winter in Hawaii, giving birth and mating before returning to the colder Alaskan waters to feed.

Koholā Nui

Koholā nui
Koholā loa
Koholā kino momona
Koholā puhipuhi
Ka hi’u pekupeku
Ke au nei i loko ka moana े

Big whale
Long whale
Fat body whale
Spouting whale
A kicking tail
Swimming in the sea