

LUNGE FEEDING

EXAMPLE:
FIN WHALE

START: 10 FT (1ST MINUTE)



2ND STAGE: ~800 FT

ONCE AT DEPTH, THEY OPEN THEIR MOUTH



3RD STAGE: GROOVES IN BLUBBER EXPAND



4TH STAGE: MOUTH FULLY OPEN, CAUSES DRAG AND DECELERATION

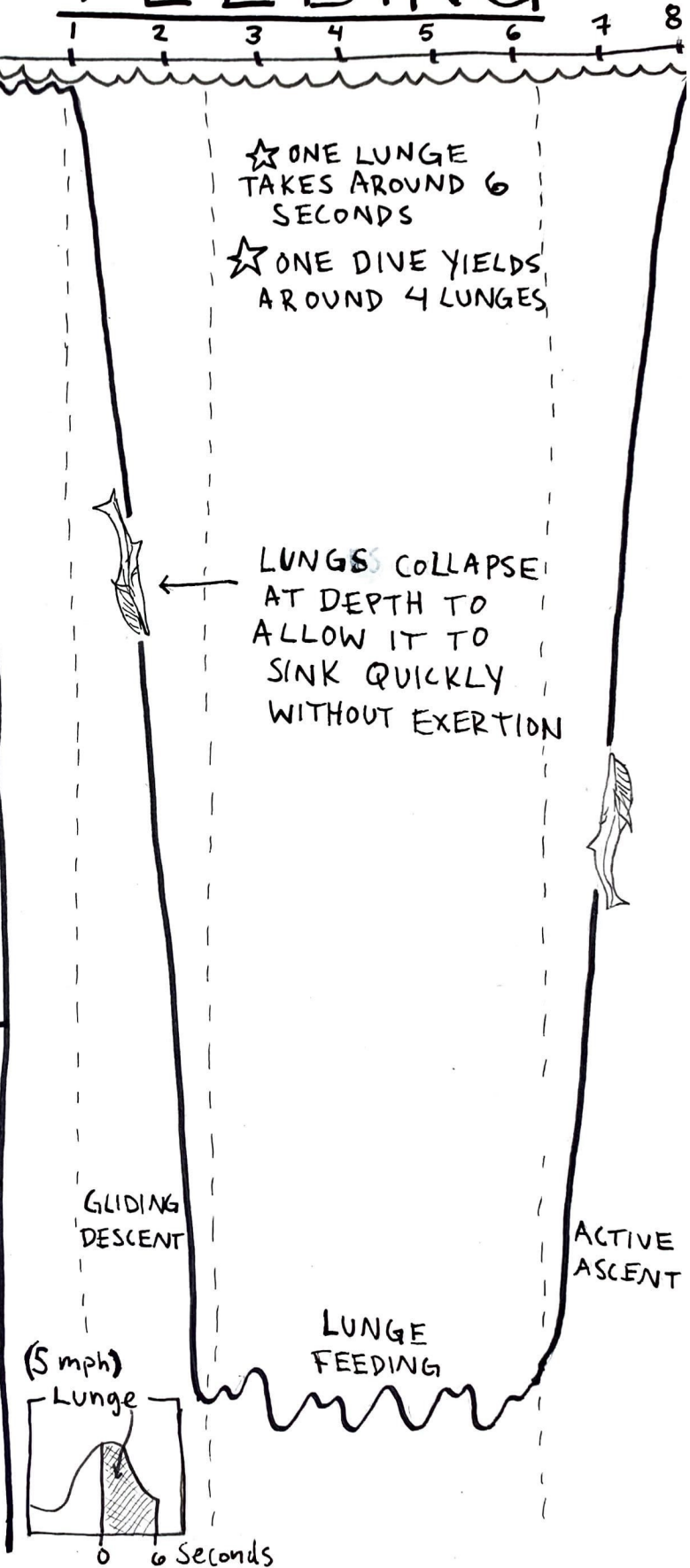


5TH STAGE: MOUTH IS CLOSING, DRAGS AS WHALE PUSHES FORWARD



6TH STAGE: PUSHES OUT KRILL AND PREPARES FOR NEXT LUNGE

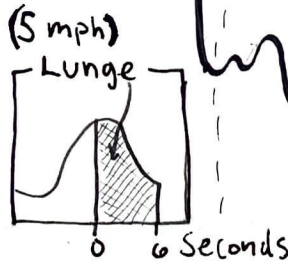
MINUTES → 0
DEPTH (feet) ↓



★ ONE LUNGE TAKES AROUND 6 SECONDS

★ ONE DIVE YIELDS AROUND 4 LUNGES

LUNGS COLLAPSE AT DEPTH TO ALLOW IT TO SINK QUICKLY WITHOUT EXERTION



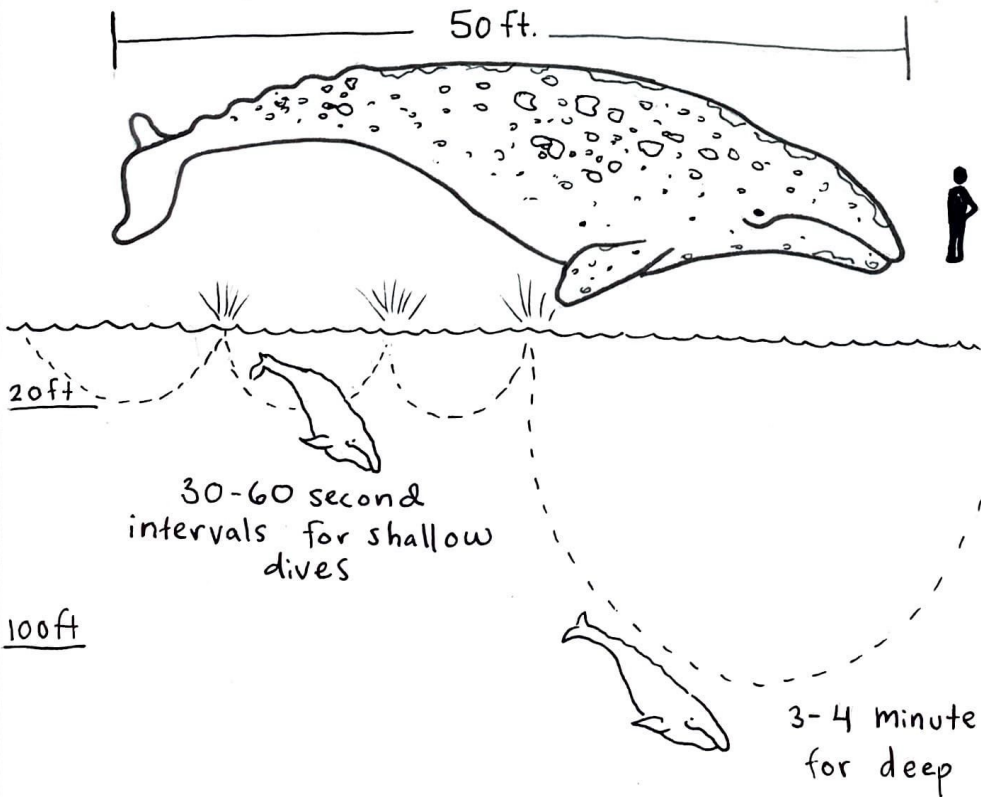
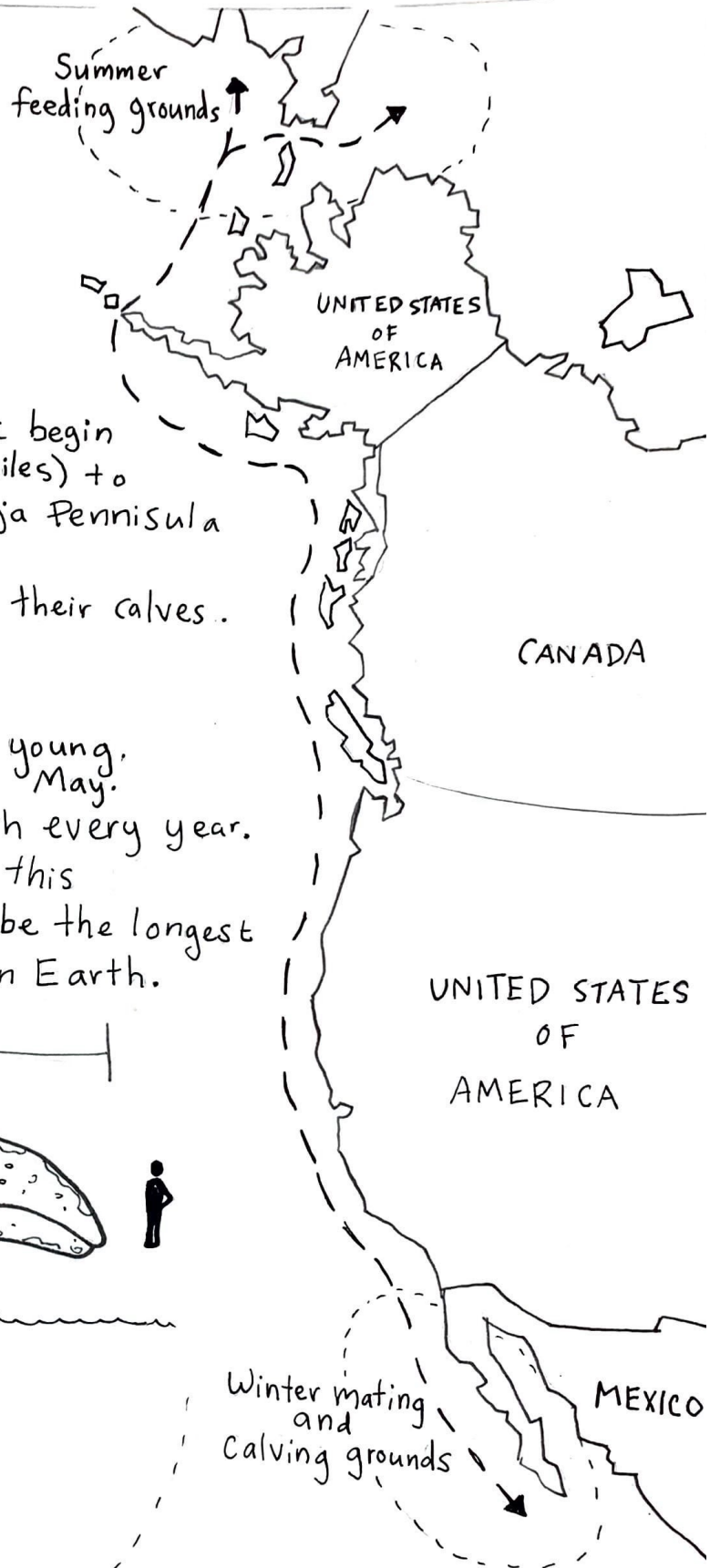
Gray Whale Migration Routes

EARLY FALL:

Eastern Gray Whales in the north Pacific begin their annual 2-3 month voyage (~6,000 miles) to the warm southern waters of the Baja Peninsula and Gulf of California. Here they mate, give birth, and nurse their calves.

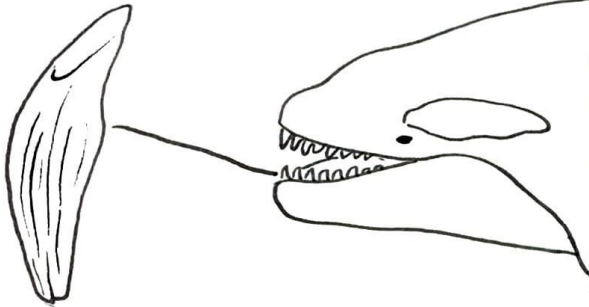
FEBRUARY:

Bulls and cows travel north without young. Pregnant and nursing cows stay until May. They stay on roughly the same path every year. Traveling roughly 75 miles per day, this ~12,000 mile round trip is believed to be the longest annual migration of any mammal on Earth.



Toothed vs Baleen Whales

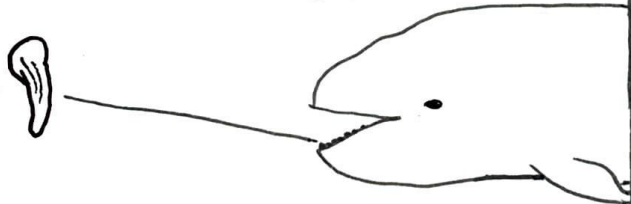
ORCA WHALE
 food: fish, salmon, seals



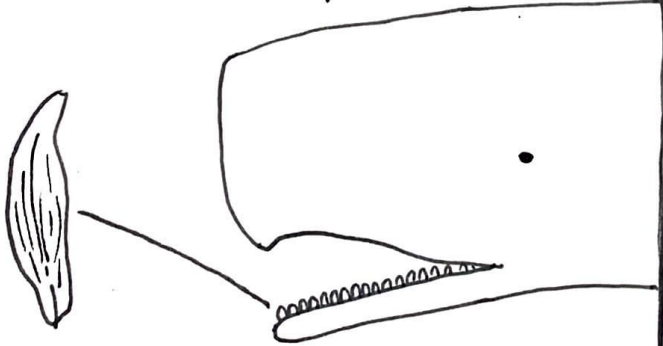
BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN
 food: fish, squid



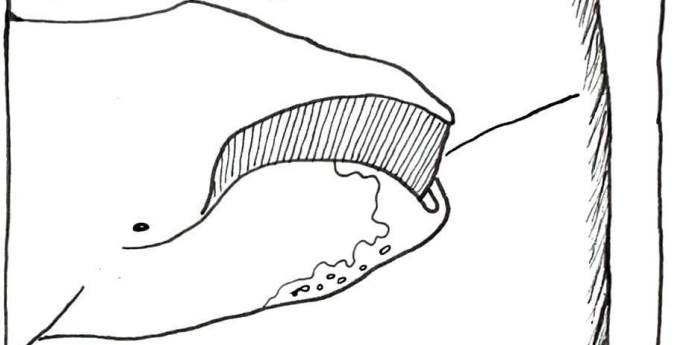
HARBOR PORPOISE
 food: small fish



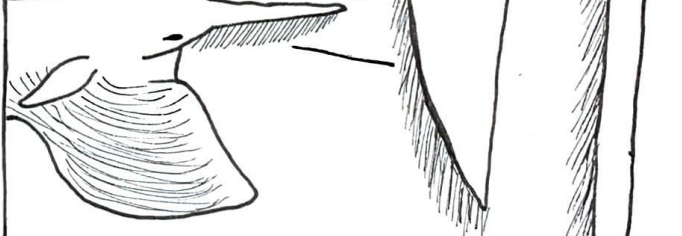
SPERM WHALE
 food: squid



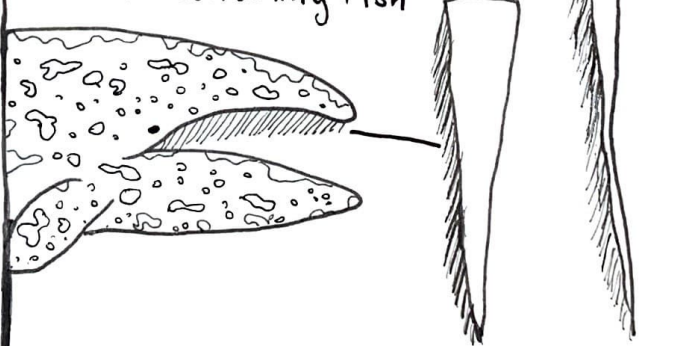
BOWHEAD WHALE
 skim feeder, fine-fringe baleen
 up to 14 ft. long. Food: plankton



BLUE WHALE
 lunge feeder, med-fringed
 baleen up to 40 in long
 food: small crustaceans



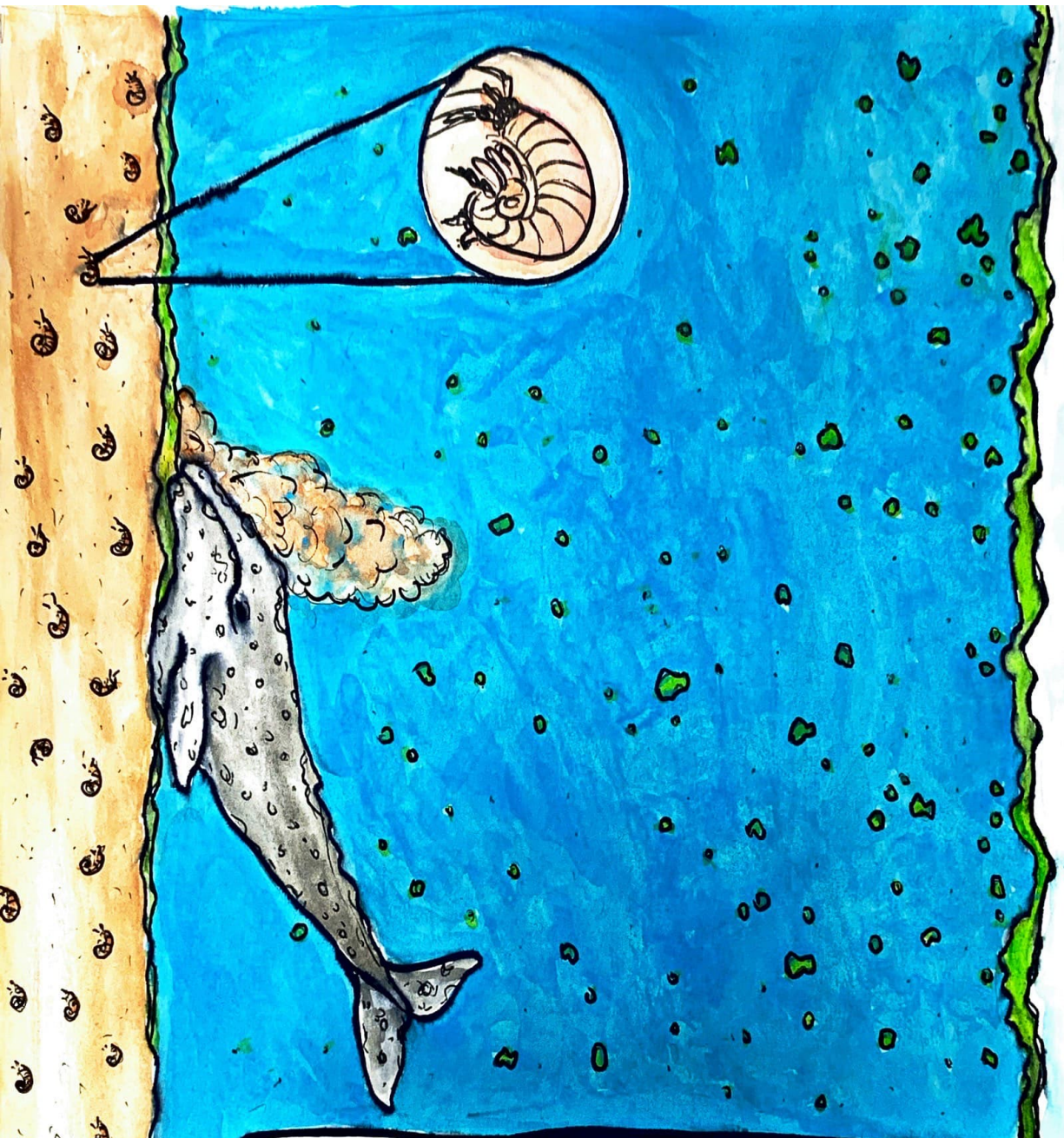
GRAY WHALE
 bottom feeder, coarse-fringed
 baleen up to 20 in long
 food: crustaceans,
 small schooling fish



CLIMATE CHANGE increasing GRAY WHALE strandings

A decrease in the thickness of Arctic sea ice has greatly limited the growth of algae under the ice. This matters because that algae will drop to the sea floor and feed amphipods living in the sediment.

These amphipods are the main food source gray whales migrate to the Arctic to eat. Without this food, stranding events have been much more common in the last several years.



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