Whales and Dolphins B.C.

There are a number of whales, dolphins, and porpoises that live in the waters off of the coast of British Columbia. They are all classified as **Cetaceans**, the scientific name given to the whole group. For information about each species, go to https://whalesanddolphinsbc.com/ .

For each of the following species: (1) indicate its maximum length.
(2) draw on the graph its size. **1 grid = 1 meter**
(3) draw a common object of comparable size on the graph.

Harbour Porpoise Length = _____ m	
Dall's Porpoise Length = _____ m	
Pacific White-Sided Dolphin Length = _____ m	
Minke Whale Length = _____ m	
Gray Whale Length = _____ m	
Humpback Whale Length = _____ m	
Orca (Killer Whale) Length = _____ m	

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Besides size, what are other characteristics you can use to distinguish between the following pairs of species?

a) Dall's Porpoise / Orca

b) Minke Whale / Humpback Whale

c) Harbour Porpoise / Pacific White-Sided Dolphin

d) Grey Whale / Humpback Whale

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Grade 3 Science – Curriculum Connection

Big Idea: Living things are diverse, can be grouped, and interact in their ecosystems.

Activity Objective:

To learn about 7 common Cetacean Species in BC waters, and how they are different from each other by their size and other distinguishing physical features.

Lesson Outline

- Students will need to use the internet to access the website: https://whalesanddolphinsbc.com/ .
- Each student will be given one copy of the workpage.
- Meter sticks (optional)

Instructions/Activity	Allotted Time
Students are to find each of the species on the website, and read the basic description of each specie. They should focus on finding the size of each specie and record it on the left column under each specie name.	5-10 minutes
For each specie, draw in a bar on the graph to indicate the size of each specie. The scale is 1 grid = 1 meter .	10 minutes
Next to each bar drawn per specie, students need to identify one common object that is comparable in size to the that specie. For example, the Harbour Porpoise is about 1.8 m long (6 feet), so maybe a table or an adult is identified as almost the same length as the porpoise. They can draw the bar on the graph next to the bar of the specie. Alternately, students can go measure objects (e.g. a car, street light, tree) and match up sizes with specie sizes by drawing the bar length on the graph.	15-20 minutes
For the second side of the workpage, read over the descriptions of each pair of species and write down distinguishing features that make them different. For each pair of species, at least 3 differences should be indicated in the space provided.	20-25 minutes