



# Caterina

Caterina and Leo are going to the beach. They would both love to see a whale. But before they can spot one, they'll need to understand more about these great creatures. Help Caterina and Leo learn about whales.

Words to know:

**Baleen** Some whales have teeth, others have Baleen. Baleen is the fringed plates that hang from the upper jaw of baleen whales and strain plankton from the water.

**Blowhole** An opening for breathing, located on the top of the head of whales and dolphins.

**Mammal** Whales swim like fish, but they are mammals, just like humans. They use lungs to breathe air, have hair on their skin, and whale mothers produce milk for their babies.

**Migrate** To change location periodically, especially by moving seasonally from one region to another.



# Whale Spout Shapes

Caterina and Leo live near the coast in southern California. Whales swim in California's waters all year long. Humpback, Blue, Fin and Gray Whales are common. Often it is just the whale's spout, a spray of water and mist blown from it's blowhole, that we see above water. Each type of whale has a distinctly shaped spout. Can you draw a line from the whale's spout to it's shape?



Gray whale



Humpback whale



Blue whale



Fin whale



heart



cone



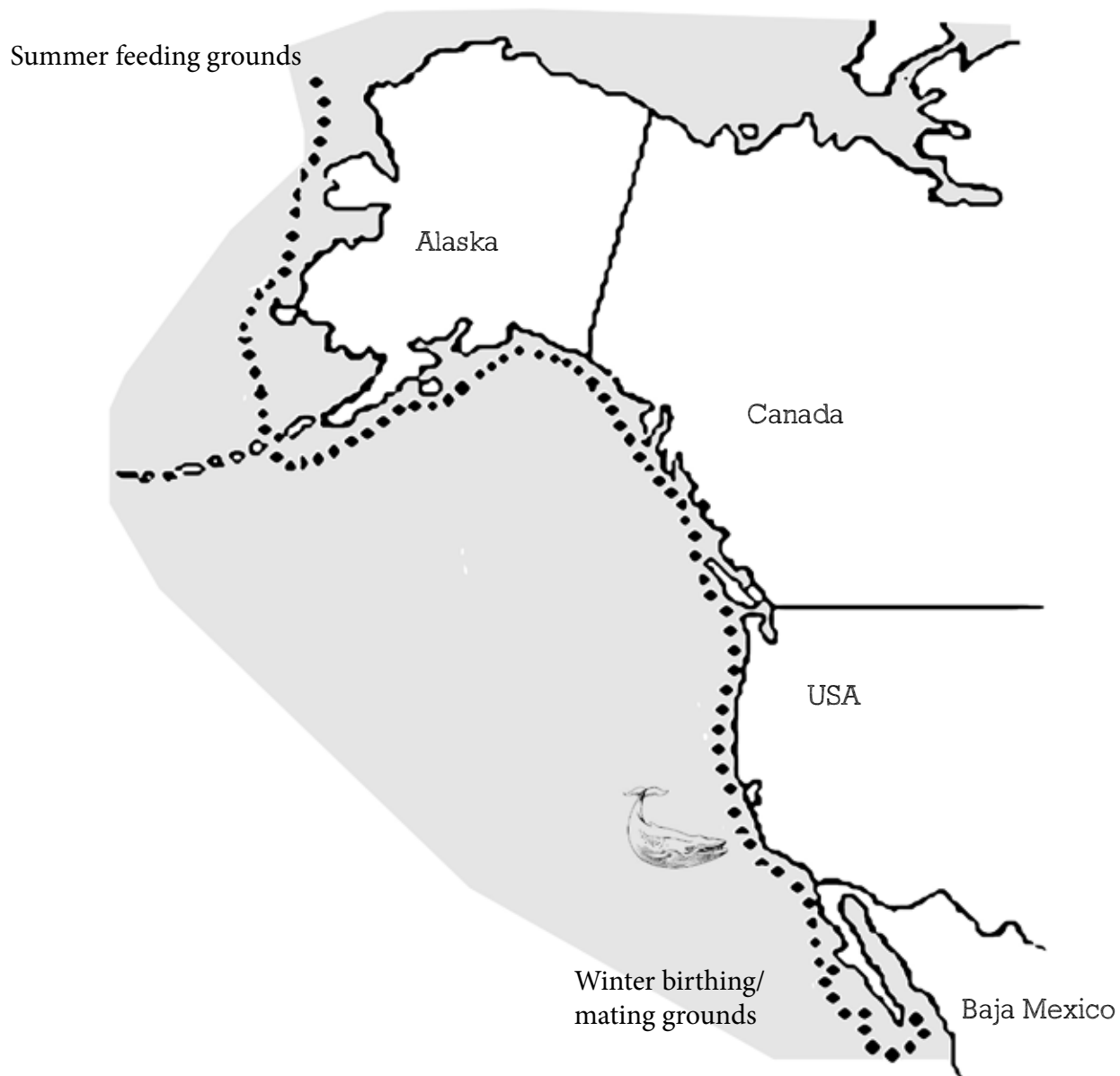
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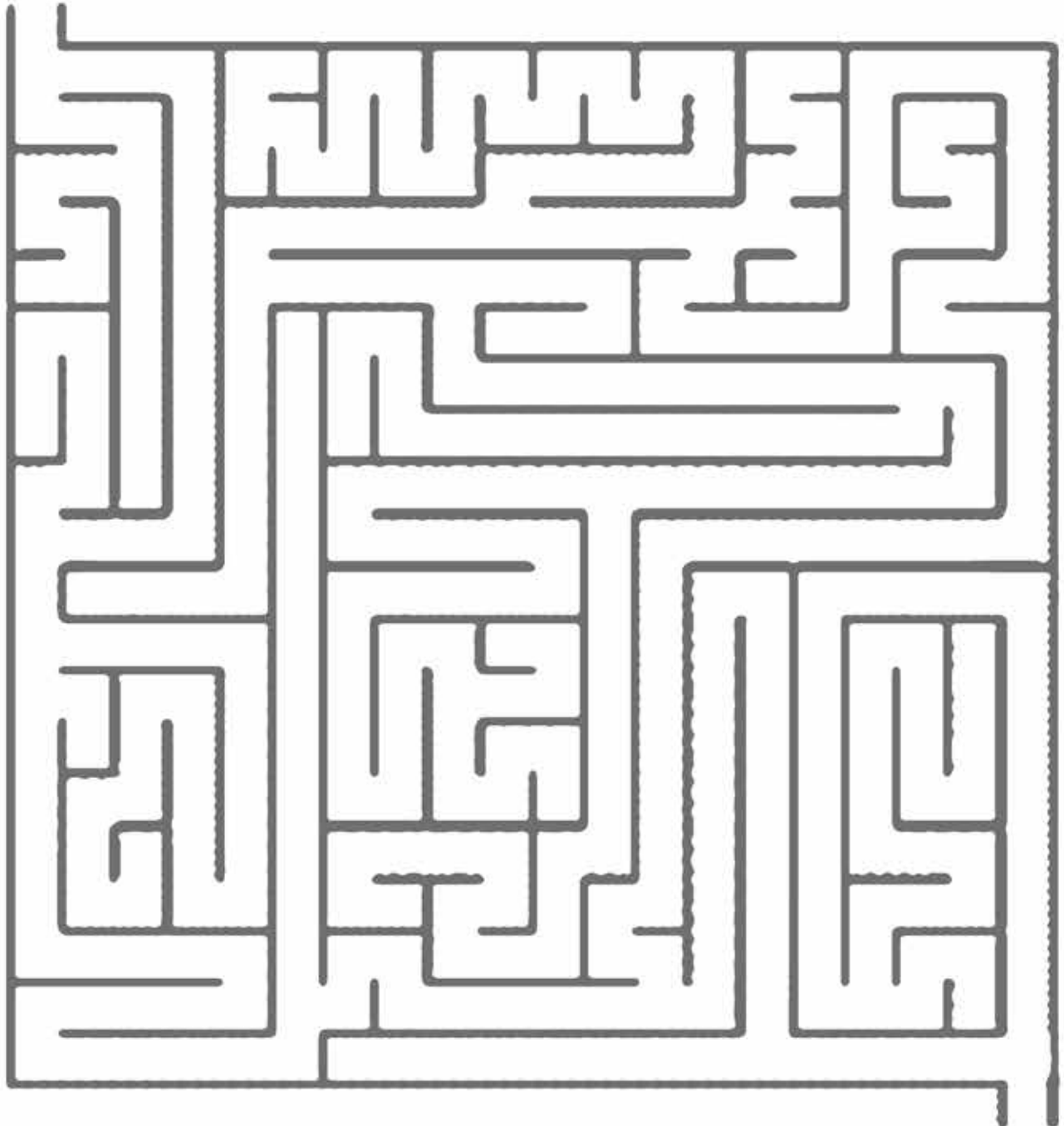
# Gray Whale Migration

During the migration season 25,000 California gray whales migrate (travel) from cool Alaskan waters south along the coast to Baja, Mexico and back. Along the way they swim within 2.5 miles of shore. If you are lucky, one may pass by when you are looking.



## Help TheWhale Find His Feeding Grounds

Gray whales spend their summers feeding in the abundant waters off Alaska. But first they must swim there. Help this whale migrate to the her feeding grounds.



# How do Baleen Whales Eat?

Whales are not a fish, they are mammals and belongs to a group of marine animals called cetaceans. There are two types of cetaceans: those that have teeth and those that have baleen instead of teeth. All baleen whales have hundreds of pieces of baleen hanging from their upper jaw. Each piece of baleen is called a plate and is made out of keratin, the same material that human fingernails are made of. It is hard but it can also bend. Baleen whales eat tiny animals called zooplankton. They gulp in huge mouthfuls of water and the baleen plates in thier mouths sift the tiny food out of the water.

## Activity: Feeding with Baleen

### OBJECTIVES:

- Understand how Baleen whales capture their food.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- 1 Aluminum pan
- Small plastic, toothed combs
- Paper towels
- Water
- Newspaper
- 1 About 2 tablespoons of dried herbs



### PROCEEDURE:

1. Fill the pan with 1-2 inches of water. This is your ocean.
2. Your comb is your baleen. The teeth in the comb represent individual plates of baleen. The dried herbs represent tiny zooplankten that your whale is going to eat. Slowly sprinkle the herbs over the surface of the water.
3. Move the comb through the water just like a Baleen whale does in search of food. Make long passes across the surface of the water. See how many krill you can capture.
4. Wipe the herbs that you have captured onto the newspaper or a paper towel. Pretend the whale has just digested the zooplankton found on the comb. Keep feeding until all the krill (herbs) are gone.

### Discussion Questions:

1. How did your baleen (comb) help you to catch its food?
2. How is the whale's mouth designed to help it catch and eat the largest amount of food?
5. How is the whale's mouth different from yours?
6. Did you notice that some of the herbs sank to the bottom of the pan? How would a whale catch food near the bottom of the ocean?

# Baleen Whale

Use the Baleen Whale body part names below to fill in the blanks.



Baleen Plates

Eye

Flippers

Fluke

Blowhole

# Caterina Loves Whales!





## ABOUT THE BOOKS

The Caterina picture book series written and illustrated by Erin Eitter Kono and published by Dial Books For Young Readers, encourages both children and parents to enjoy life's happy imperfections. Caterina models the creative process, critical thinking, problem solving, and creative play. Each story features age appropriate projects and activities that children will be able to recreate with the imaginative use of simple, inexpensive, materials.



### Caterina and the Best Beach Day

Caterina is a little brown bird with a penchant for planning, so when she and her little brother, Leo, spend the day at the beach, she makes sure to bring along everything they'll need to have a perfect summer day. Leo's dearest wish is to see a whale, but even Caterina knows that no one can plan that kind of awesome encounter. But soon, Leo spies something big and gray in the water. Can he convince Caterina to leave the plan behind and chase the whale with him?



### Caterina and the Lemonade Stand

Caterina loves making lists and planning big, creative projects, and this time she's planning a lemonade stand – the perfect summer pastime. She's hoping to earn enough money for a new scooter, but finds that she's not the only one in town with the lemonade idea. Everybody seems to be selling the refreshing treat, so how can Caterina's stand truly stand out?



### Caterina and the Perfect Party

Caterina is planning the best party ever. She organizes perfect lists, prepares perfect food, and crafts perfect decorations. But a terrible storm threatens to put a hitch in all of Caterina's perfect party plans. With the help of her friends and little brother, Leo, Caterina learns that real creativity is not about being perfect, but about having fun!

Visit [www.caterinascorner.com](http://www.caterinascorner.com) for more activities and free downloads.