

Social Studies

Geography: California

This story takes place in California, on the west coast of the United States, bordered by Oregon, Nevada, and Arizona. California was the 31st state admitted to the union; it was admitted on September 9, 1850. The capital of California is Sacramento, and it is the third largest state in the United States. Major Industries include various agriculture products, oil, mining, electronics, movie making/entertainment, and tourism. California's major rivers are the Sacramento River, and the San Joaquin River, both of which empty into the Pacific Ocean to the west of the state. Exciting places to see in California include the Golden Gate Bridge, Redwood National Forest, Yosemite National Park, Death Valley, and Disneyland.

Look at the map inside the cover of the book. Trace Humphrey's route through the Bay, and up the Sacramento River.

[Complete Where in the United States is California? Shutterfold](#)

Geography: Cardinal Directions

The four principal points on the compass are called the cardinal points. They are North, South, East, and West. We are told that Humphrey swims south for the winter, and every summer swims back north. October is the wrong time of the year for Humphrey to swim north, but he did anyway! Introduce the cardinal points to your child. Looking at the map inside the book cover, ask what direction Humphrey swam to get into the San Francisco Bay (North, then North-East), and then to get into the San Pablo Bay (North-West, then North), then on up the Sacramento River (East, then North-East, then North). Then reverse it, identifying the directions Humphrey needed to follow to get back out to the Pacific Ocean.

[Complete Cardinal Directions Accordion Fold](#)

Geography: Landforms

Landforms are features that are on the earth's surface. As we know from the Bible, in the beginning, the earth was without form. God created the landforms such as oceans, rivers, mountains, valleys, deserts, islands, volcanoes, etc. Over time, due to events such as the Great Flood or erosion, landforms can change. About two-thirds of all the earth's landmass is covered by water, primarily oceans, rivers, lakes, and seas. In our story about Humphrey, there are quite a few landforms mentioned. Discuss these with your child.

Oceans – huge bodies of salt water confined by the continents including the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, and Arctic. The Pacific Ocean, where Humphrey was supposed to be, is the world's largest ocean.

Sea – a segment of ocean enclosed by land on three sides

Bay – an area of the sea that reaches inland. A bay can be a flooded river valley. Humphrey had made his way into the San Francisco Bay.

River – a large stream of water that empties into an ocean, sea, lake, or other river. River water is not salty like ocean water. Humphrey made his way up the Sacramento River.

Stream – a smaller flow of water branching from a river

Coast – all the land connected to a sea or ocean

[Complete Landform Cards and Pocket](#)

Occupations

The job somebody does for a living is called his or her occupation. There are specialized jobs mentioned in this story, scientists and coast guard officers. Discuss these with your child as interest warrants.

Coast Guard Officer –

The U.S. Coast Guard is one of the five branches of the Armed Forces. It is abbreviated USCG. The Coast Guard has 38,000 active-duty men and women, 8,000 Reservists, and 35,000 Auxiliary personnel who serve in a variety of job fields ranging from operation specialists and small-boat operators and maintenance specialists to electronic technicians and aviation mechanics. They patrol the waterways, do search and rescues, and on occasion, help giant whales get back to where they are supposed to be. To become a full time officer in the Coast Guard, most people graduate from the Coast Guard Academy where studies include nautical science, law enforcement, seamanship, and leadership. The Coast Guard Reservists are trained people who work with the Coast Guard one weekend a month and two weeks every year. There are also over 6,000 civilian positions in USCG, people with careers working alongside the military.

Scientist –

The scientists that helped Humphrey were marine biologists. A marine biologist is someone who works in some way in studying, observing, protecting, or managing marine organisms, be they microbe, plant or animal. Marine biologists may study fish populations, manage preserves such as Sea World, collect and study organisms looking for bioactive drugs, or even be a whale or dolphin trainer. To become a marine biologist, you could go to college to take courses in biology, chemistry, and/or anatomy. A marine biologist will need to live near a body of water, and enjoy being outdoors.

[Complete Occupations Tab Book](#)

Language Arts

Vocabulary

Introduce the definitions of unfamiliar words as you come across them in the story, and have child use the word in a sentence to show understanding.

Pilings- long slender columns usually of timber, steel, or reinforced concrete driven into the ground to carry a vertical load, such as a bridge.

Flotilla – a fleet of ships or boats

Flustered – put into a state of agitated confusion

Spectacular – exciting to see

[Complete Vocabulary Flap Book](#)

Grammar: Capitalization

There are many capitalized words throughout this story, so as you come across them, discuss these capitalization rules, and have your children use them in their own writings.

~Capitalize the first word in every sentence, and the first word in a direct quotation. Ex. “*There he is!*”

~Names of people, called proper nouns, get capitalized. Ex. *Humphrey*

~Geographical names get capitalized, such as *San Francisco Bay* or *Golden Gate Bridge* or *Sacramento River*, but not the words if they stand alone, such as *bay* or *bridge* or *river*.

Onomatopoeia

When words are written similar to the sounds they make it is called onomatopoeia. These words are most fun when read out loud. When the people were banging pipes together they went “Clang! Clang!” Have your child listen to noises around him, and try to write out the sound he hears phonetically.

Genre: Non-fiction

Humphrey the Lost Whale is based on a true story. When a story is true, it is called non-fiction. In a non-fiction account, facts are important. Information such as people, places, and dates should be as accurate as possible. Ask your student to write or narrate a story based on a real life event.

[Complete Non-Fiction Simple Fold](#)

Science

Humpback Whales

Humphrey is a humpback whale. Whales are a fascinating animal to study. While we are including some interesting facts in this unit study, be sure you share with your curious child the Free Whale Unit Study and Lapbook found here: <http://www.homeschoolshare.com/whales.php>

Classification –

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Subphylum: Vertebrata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Cetacea

Suborder: Mysticeti

Whales may look and act a lot like fish, but they are not; they are mammals. Whales breath air through lungs, have live births, give milk to their young, called calves, are warm blooded, have a four-chambered heart, and have some hair, just like other mammals.

There are two types of whales, toothed (odontoceti) and baleen (mysticeti). Humphrey, a humpback, is a baleen whale. A baleen whale has an upper jaw structure similar to a sieve, which it uses to catch small fish.

Anatomy –

Baleen whales are the largest species of whale and include the humpback, gray and bowhead whales. They are up to 52 feet long and weigh 30-40 tons. They are white, gray, black or mottled in color. They have a patch of white on the underside of their fluke that is unique to each whale (like our fingerprint). They have the largest flippers of any whale. They have a nostril in the top of the head of a whale, called a blowhole.

Habitat and Migration –

They live in groups called pods and cooperate in hunting, but do not form tight knit pods as blue whales do. There is a strong bond between mother and calf though. They live at the surface of the ocean, both in the open ocean and the shallow waters of the coastline. Humpback whales migrate to colder waters where they feed and warmer waters where they breed.

Diet –

Humpbacks use a method of hunting called bubble-net feeding. The members of the pod form a circle, then blow a wall of bubbles as they swim to the surface in a spiral path. The wall of bubbles traps krill, plankton and small fish, forcing them to move to the surface of the water.

Sound -

They also “sing” by making a series of noises such as squeaks, shrieks, moans and grunts. Their song can last upwards of 30 minutes.

Movement –

Humpback whales make a lot of special movements, and can be quite animated. Here are some terms describing the different ways that whales move:

Breaching- when a whale jumps out of water; this may be for play, it may be done to loosen skin parasites, or it may even have a social meaning

Spyhopping- when a whale pokes its head out of the water and turns around.

Lobtailing- when a whale sticks its tail out of the water into the air, swing it around, and then make a loud sound by slapping it on the water's surface.

Logging- when a whale lies still at the surface of the water, resting, with its tail hanging down.

[Complete Y @ ^ Á @ ^ Á Simple Fold](#)
[Complete On the Move Quad Fold](#)
[Complete Whales Graduated Book](#)

Art

Illustrating Motion

Examine the pictures of Humphrey as he moves about the bodies of water. There are different ways to illustrate an object in motion. Look at the waves made as he flops in the water and the streams of bubbles as he swims by. Find the ripples in the bay, and the splashes as he breaches. All these details help us to see Humphrey in motion. Using the illustrations as a guide, help your child to draw a picture of a whale in motion. You may want to use this picture as the cover for your lapbook or notebook.

Aerial View

Some of the pictures are from an aerial view. Point these out to your student. Set some objects on a small stool in your home. Take note of them (with your student) from different views focusing on an aerial view. Encourage your student to draw a picture from an aerial view.

Applied Math

Calendar Skills

Humphrey was "lost" for 26 days. Count them on a calendar. He was first sighted on Thursday, October 10, 1985. What day did he return to the ocean? It took Humphrey until Monday, November 4 to get back to where he was supposed to be. Have your child keep a diary of Humphrey's adventure. Write the dates that he was lost, with a sentence or two about what he may have experienced that day.

[Complete Humphrey's Diary Mini Book](#)

Whale Story Problems

1. A pilot whale is 28 feet long (8.5 meters). A narwhal is 20 feet long (6 meters). How much longer is the pilot whale?

2. A blue whale calf drinks 130 gallons of milk a day. How much milk will it drink in two days?
3. A gray whale travels 6 mph. How long will it take the whale to travel the 5000 miles from the Arctic to Mexico?

Can you and your student write (and solve) more story problems based on other whale facts you have learned this week?

Comparisons

Humphrey was 45 feet long. He was said to be as long as a city bus and as big as seven elephants. This may be hard for a young child to visualize.

Measurement

Some whales can hear each other making sounds from 100 miles away! How far can you hear from? Experiment with how far away your student can hear someone speaking (you may have to get dad involved, too!). Check for accuracy by making sure the listener can repeat exactly what the speaker said. Measure the distance at which they can still understand each other.

[Complete How Far Can You Hear](#)

Go Along Books:

- [The Whales Go By](#) by Fred Phleger
- [Whales Passing](#) by Eve Bunting
- [The Life Cycle of the Whale](#) by Paula Z. Hogan
- [Whalewatch!](#) by June Behrens
- [Whales](#) by Gail Gibbons
- [Ibis: A True Whale Story](#) by John Himmelman
- [Baby Whales Drink Milk](#) by Barbara Juster Esbensen
- [Listening to Whales Sing](#) by Faith McNulty
- [The Whale's Song](#) by Dyan Sheldon
- [I Wonder if I'll See a Whale](#) by Frances Ward Welle

Possible Rabbit Trails:

- Learn about other animals that migrate (and why)
- Research the Golden Gate Bridge
- Find out why California is called the Golden State
- Learn more about the Pacific Ocean

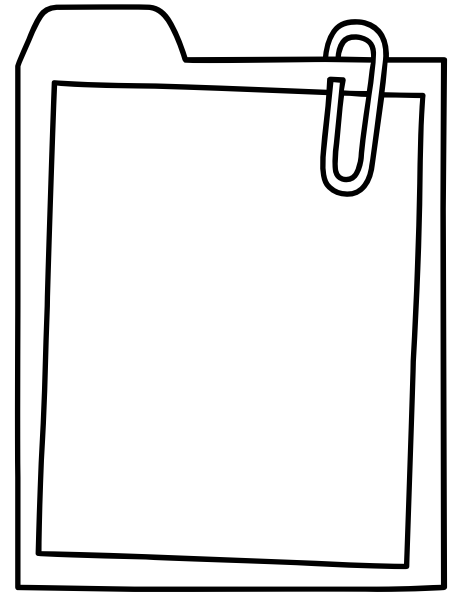
Flotilla

Flustered

Pilings

Spectacular

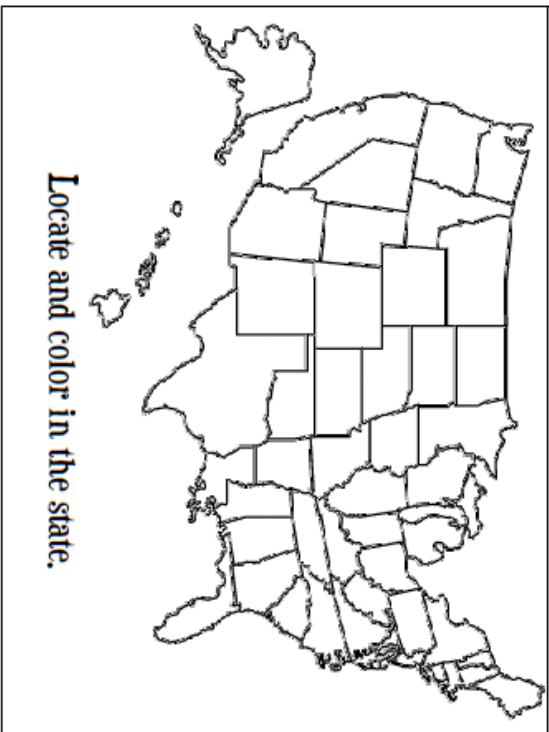
New Words



Cut out book as one piece. Fold left side in. Fold right side in. Open book. Cut on lines to form four flaps. Refold book.

California

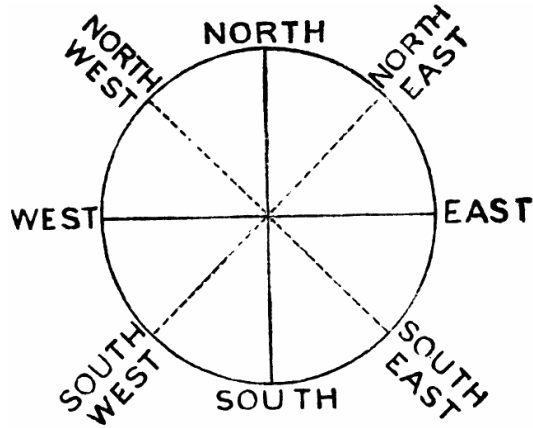
**Where in the
United States
is...**



Locate and color in the state.

Cut out book as one piece on solid lines. Fold on dotted lines.
Cut out map on solid lines and glue under shutters.

Cardinal Directions



Cut on solid lines. Accordion fold on dotted lines so cover ends up on top.

What direction did Humphrey swim to...

...get into the San Francisco Bay?

...get into the San Pablo Bay?

...go up the Sacramento River?

What direction did Humphrey swim to...

...go down the Sacramento River?

...get out of the San Pablo Bay?

...get back into the Pacific Ocean?



___ A ___



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___ S ___

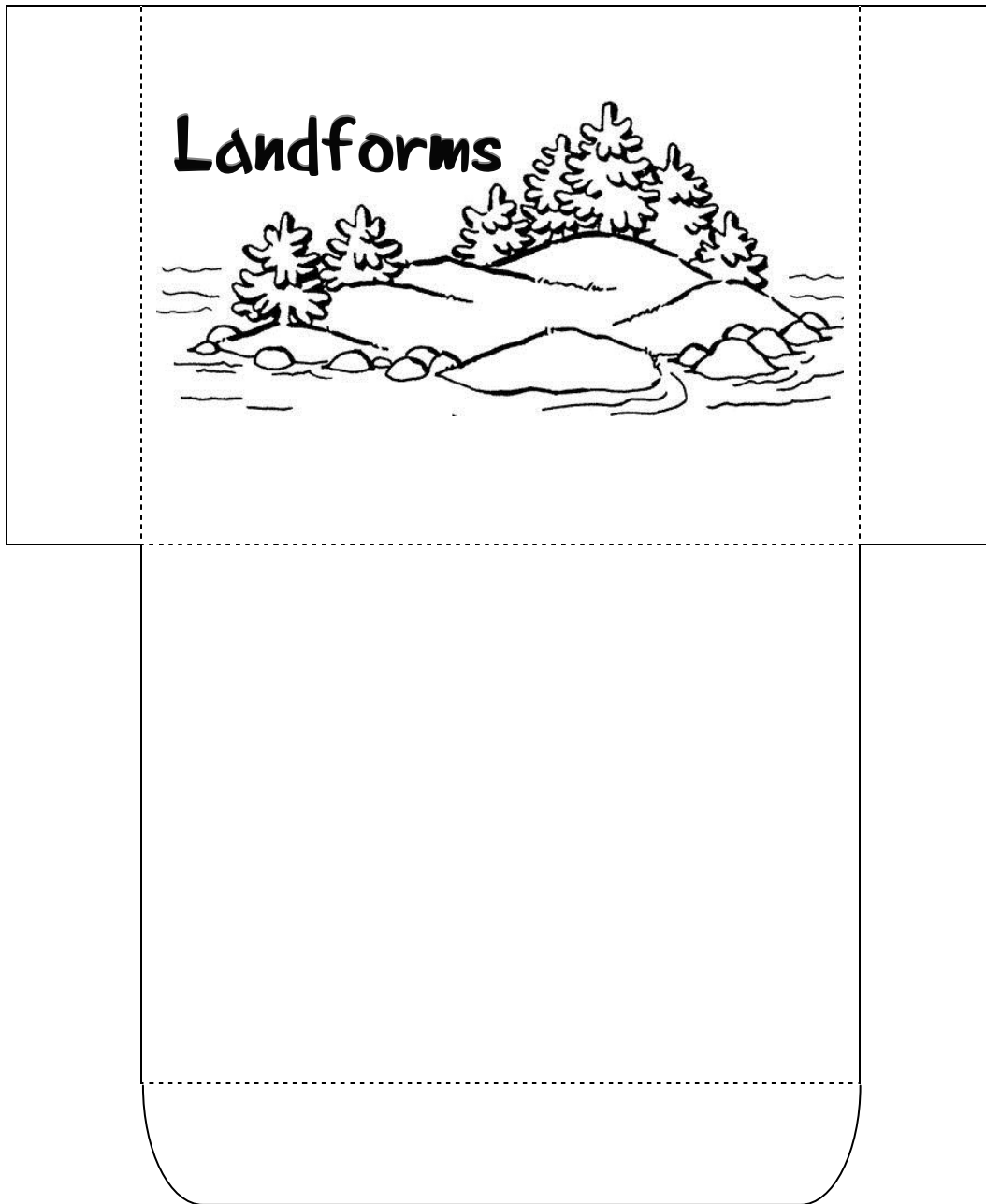


___ T ___



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Cut out cards on solid lines. Fill in the blanks to identify each landform. Store cards in pocket.

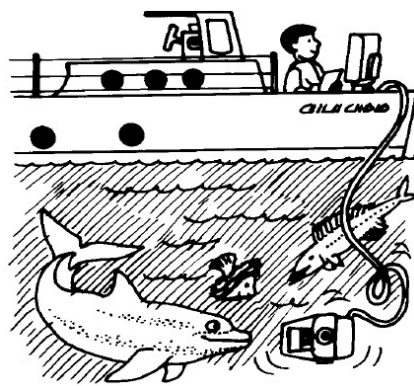


Cut on solid lines. Mountain fold on dotted lines. Glue side tabs to pocket back.

Store cards in pocket. Fold top tab down to close.

Cut on solid lines. Stack pages with cover on top. Staple where marked. Write about each occupation.

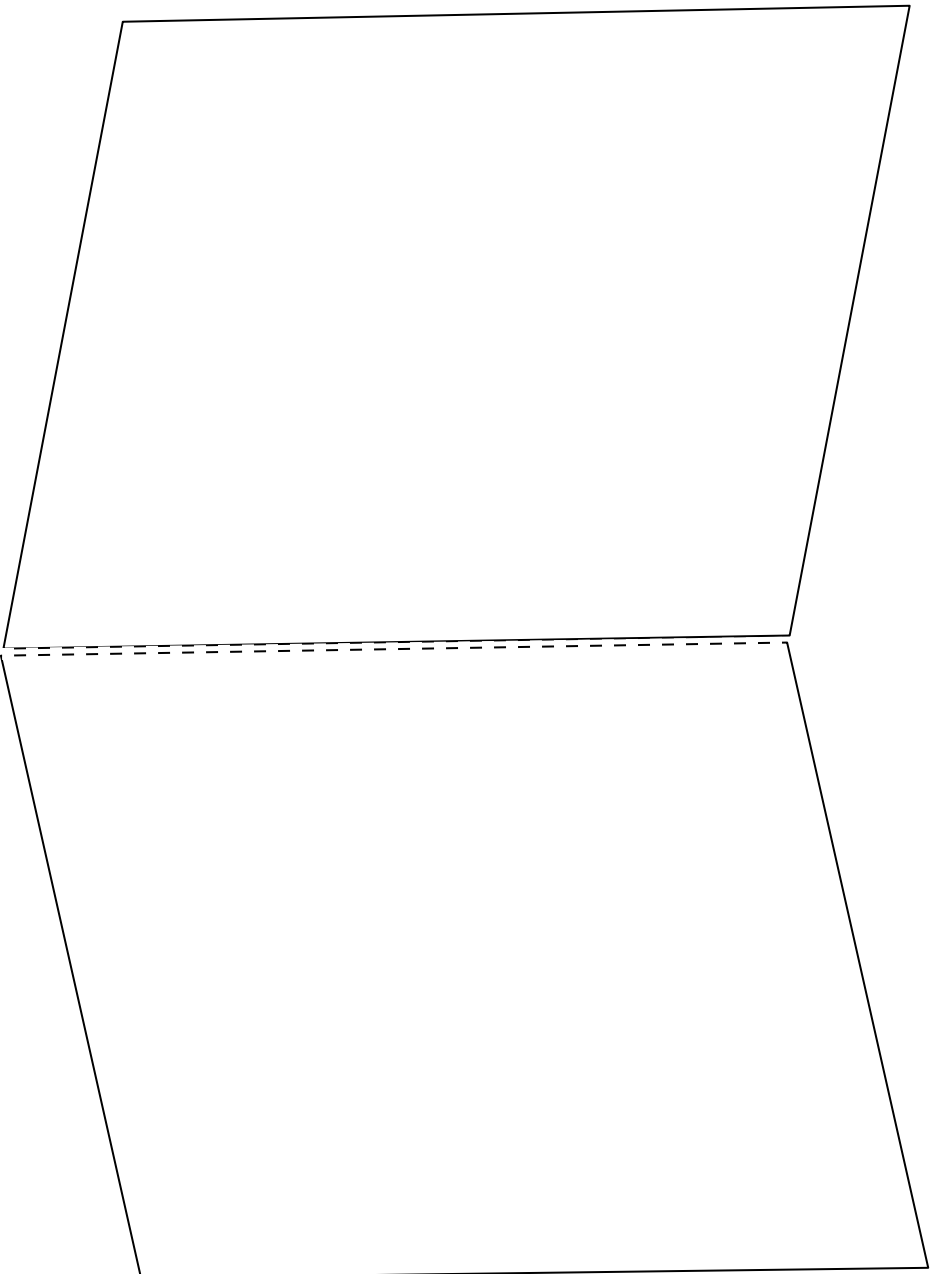
Occupations

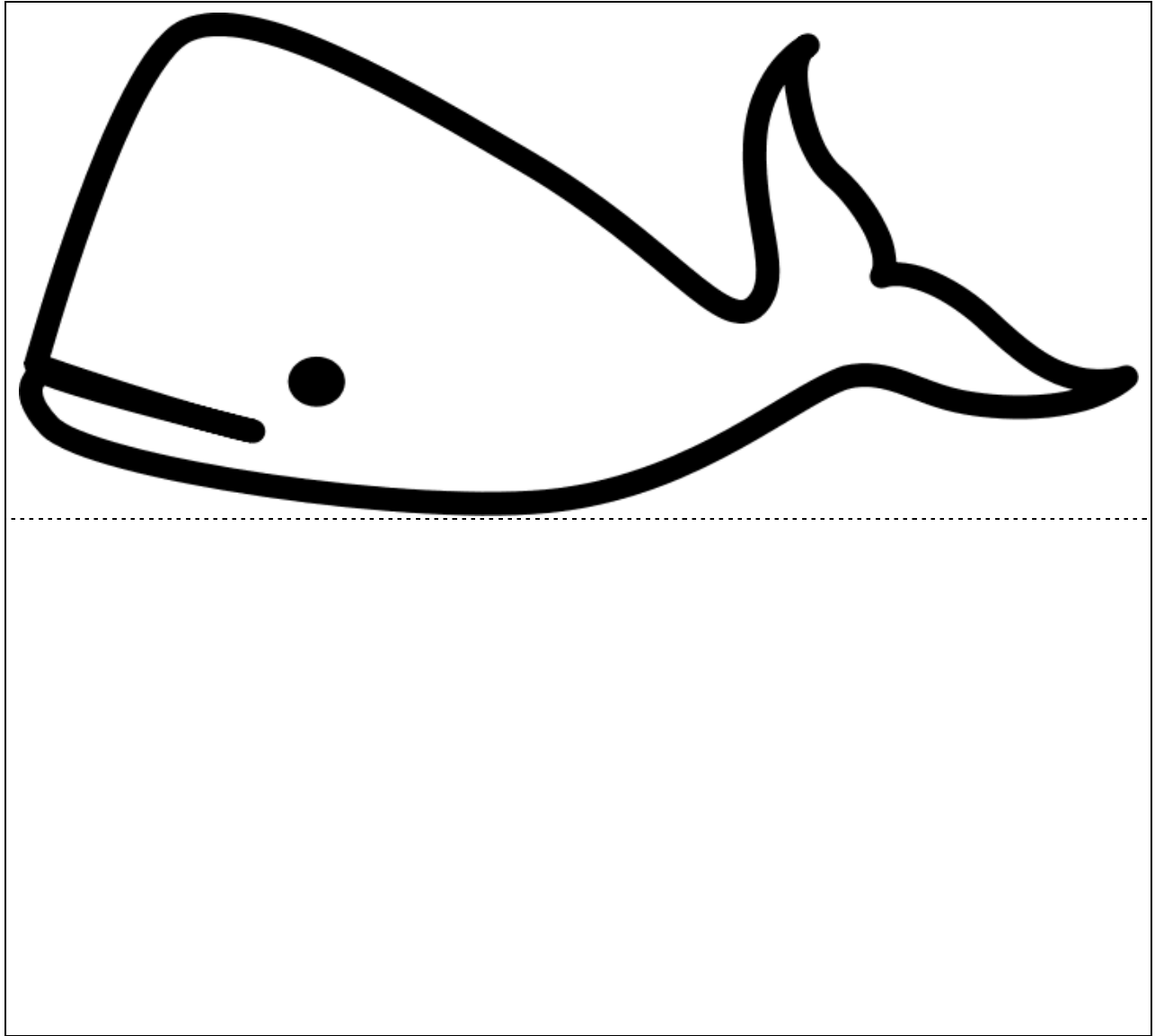


Scientist

Coast Guard

Cut on solid lines. Mountain fold on dotted line. Inside, describe what a non-fiction book is.

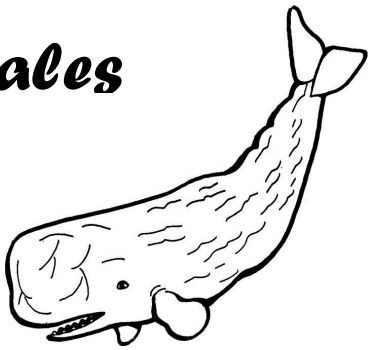




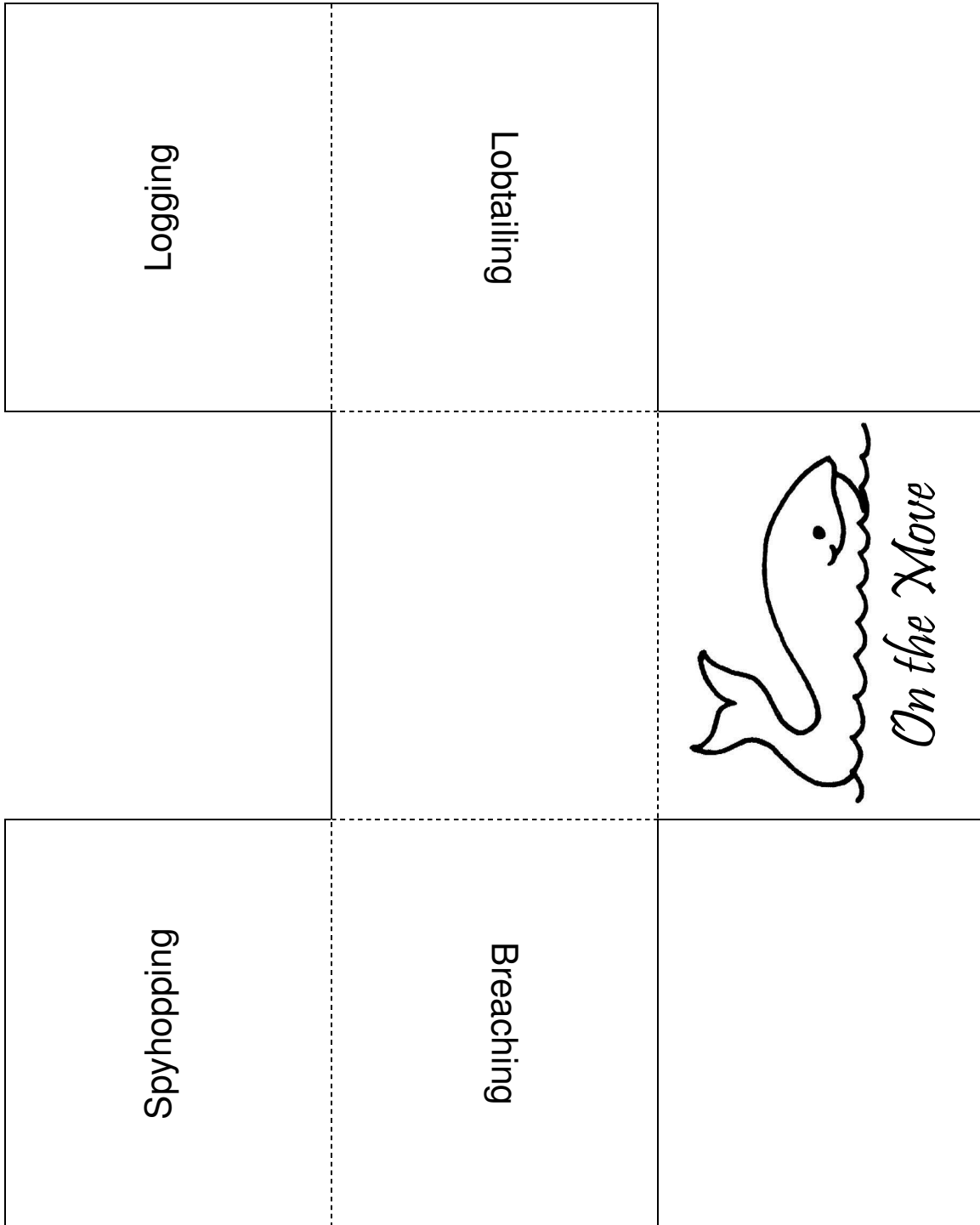
Cut on solid lines. Mountain fold on dotted line.

If desired, you can cut out the whale shape, leaving the fold intact.

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<p>-----</p> <p>Whales</p> 	
<p>Anatomy</p>	<p>Diet</p> <p>Habitat</p>

Cut on solid lines. Stack pages smallest to largest and staple where marked.

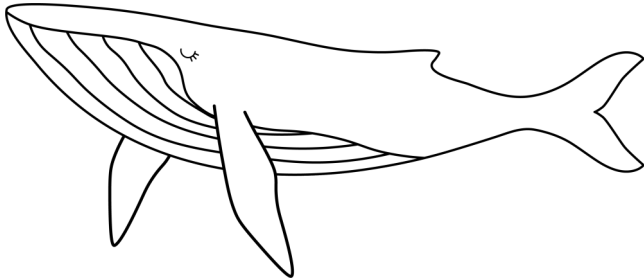


Cut on solid lines. Mountain fold on dotted lines. You'll end up with a book 2.5" x 2".

On back of each flap. Write definition of the movement.

On blank center space, child can draw a picture of Humphrey in action.

Humphrey's
Diary



Day 1:
Thursday, October 10th

Day 4:
Sunday, October 13th

Day 7:
Wednesday, October 16th

Day 12:
Monday, October 21st

Day 9:
Friday, October 18th

Day 13:
Tuesday, October 22nd

Cut out pages. Stack together with cover on top and secure at the top with two staples.

Day 17:
Saturday, October 26th

Day 19:
Monday, October 28th

Day 22:
Thursday, October 31st

Day 26:
Monday, November 4th

Cut out book as one piece. Fold in half. Use with the hearing and measurement lesson.

How Far?



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