

# Kids Corner

## The Lost Whale

by Margo Fallis



Bubbles, the whale, swam deep under the water. He swam past fish and coral, jellyfish and octopus, sharks and tuna. Once in a while Bubbles would swim up to the surface and blow his spout high into the air. That's what whales do.

A huge storm roared across the sea, churning the waves higher and higher. At first Bubbles didn't like it, but then he found that if he rode on the waves, he could go up and then down and then up and then down and he thought that was a lot of fun.

The storm got much worse and soon the waves were so high that they crashed down on Bubbles and nearly drowned him. "I don't like this anymore," Bubbles said. He swam down under the waves. Even then the storm made the

water wavy and choppy and he felt sick.

Soon he didn't recognize anything. "I don't see any sharks. I can't see the coral and the jellyfish. I think I'm lost!" All day and all night the storm raged. Poor Bubbles had to stay down deep, so that he wouldn't get tossed about.

The next morning the water looked much more calm, so he swam up to the surface. The waves were still big, but at least the sky was blue and the rain stopped. "This is better," Bubbles said, "but I'm still lost."

He saw something on the horizon. "What's that? Is it another whale?" He swam through the sea towards the object. "It's a boat. I wonder if the boat knows where I am. Hey you! I'm lost. Which way

is it to my home?"

A man stood at the railing. He waved at the whale. "Ahoy. What's that you said?"

"I want to go home. Which way is it?" Bubbles blew his spout and water flew all over the man.

The ship's captain laughed and wiped the water off his face. "Follow me," he said.

Bubbles followed the ship all day. He swam down under the water to see if he recognized any of the fish. "Yes, I see the octopus and the tuna. I'm home!"

He swam back up to the surface and waves his flipper at the captain. When the man waved back, Bubbles dove down into the water and swam with the sharks. "I'm home! I'm home! I'm home!"

### Fun Facts about Whales:

1. Whales are very large animals that live in the ocean, but they are not fish! They are mammals, so they feed milk to their babies and breathe air.
2. When whales sleep, they stay at the top of the water, with their blowhole above the surface.
3. There are two different kinds of whales, the baleen and the toothed whale.
4. Flippers of the humpback whale can be as long as 15 feet.
5. Whales swim by moving their tails up and down and using their flippers, which also help them to turn.
6. The blue whale is the largest animal that has ever lived upon the earth, often reaching 100 feet in length.
7. All whales are very noisy and their sounds can travel great distances underwater.
8. Whales feast in the summer months to build up their blubber and migrate to warmer places when the weather gets cold.

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