My Orca Fact File

Read the orca fact page, then fill in your fact file.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Draw an orca

Orca facts

Size: _____

Weight: _____

Lifespan: _____

Diet: _____

Habitat: _____

Where: _____

Status: _____

Match the word to its meaning

1. pod ____	A. finding things by making sounds and listening for the echoes
2. echolocation ____	B. an animal at the top of the food chain that no other animal hunts
3. apex predator ____	C. a group of orcas with its own favorite food, habits and calls
4. ecotype ____	D. the tall fin on an orca's back
5. dorsal fin ____	E. a family group of orcas that travels and hunts together

The most amazing thing I learned about orcas

Answer Key

Orca Fact File

Orca facts

Scientific name:	Orcinus orca
Size:	Usually 16–26 ft; up to about 32 ft
Weight:	Up to about 11 tons
Lifespan:	Males ~30–60 yrs; females ~50–90
Diet:	Fish, squid, seals, other whales
Habitat:	Open ocean and coasts
Where:	Every ocean; most in cold waters
Status:	IUCN Data Deficient

Accept any answer that matches the fact page; sizes and lifespans are approximate.

Word match

1–E, 2–A, 3–B, 4–C, 5–D

Wow facts to share

- The orca is the biggest member of the dolphin family.
- A grown male's dorsal fin can stand about 6 feet (1.8 m) tall.
- Some orca grandmothers live for decades after they stop having calves.