

Scavenger Hunt

Believe it or not, your favorite SpongeBob characters are inspired by real life marine animals. Some of these animals are vertebrates, which means they have a backbone just like us! Vertebrates include animals like whales and fishes, such as Pearl and Mrs. Puff. Through this activity, we will learn more about these awesome vertebrates and their other cool features.

STEP 1

Players will have one minute and thirty seconds to find an item in their household that fits the description from a list.

STEP 2

Come back together to share what you found. Check off the items that fit the descriptions provided. (ex: Bring something blue; check the item is blue).

STEP 3

Learn a fun fact about the marine animal that inspired the question.

STEP 4

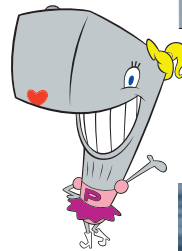
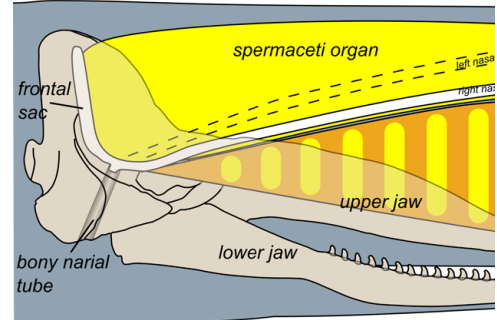
Repeat steps 1–3 until all the items on the list are found. Once all the items on the list are found the scavenger hunt has been completed!



NHM.ORG/spongebob

Something that is grey and rectangle-shaped

The rectangular heads of sperm whales (like Pearl!) are filled with a substance called spermaceti. Although the use of the fluid isn't yet known, some scientists believe it lets whales dive deep because it hardens in cold waters.



Something that sprays water

Whales have blowholes on the top of their heads that let them breathe. When whales go underwater, their blowhole gets sealed. During a deep dive, sperm whales can hold their breath for more than 1 hour!



Something round that is the size of your palm

Barnacles are around the size of a fist, and hitchhike on whales. They usually "stitch" onto humpback whales along the lips and throat, but have also been seen on sperm whales, where they ride through the waves and feed on plankton.



A bundle of pens, pencils, or crayons

Anchovies travel in large groups, or schools. When food is scarce, anchovies take turns swimming at the front of their school, where they are more likely to encounter the best food.



Something that clamps down or looks like a beak

Porcupinefish (like Mrs. Puff) have teeth that are fused in the beak-like structure. They use their teeth for opening mussels, clams and shellfish.



Something that expands or gives you protection

Porcupinefish are able to inflate themselves to be able to protect themselves from predators. Another very helpful characteristic that helps them protect themselves if they have spines on their skin.



Something that reminds you of a fish scales

Not all fish scales are the same size. The size of fish scales varies from each species.



Something that is flat

Flounder fish (like Flats the Flounder) use their flat bodies as an advantage when they are being hunted by predators. Flounder fish are found near the bottom of the sea, when they are being hunted they are able to bury themselves in the sand to stay hidden.



Something that shines

Female Angler fish have a dorsal spine that hangs like a fishing pole. At the end, it has flesh that glows which is used to attract prey (aka food).

