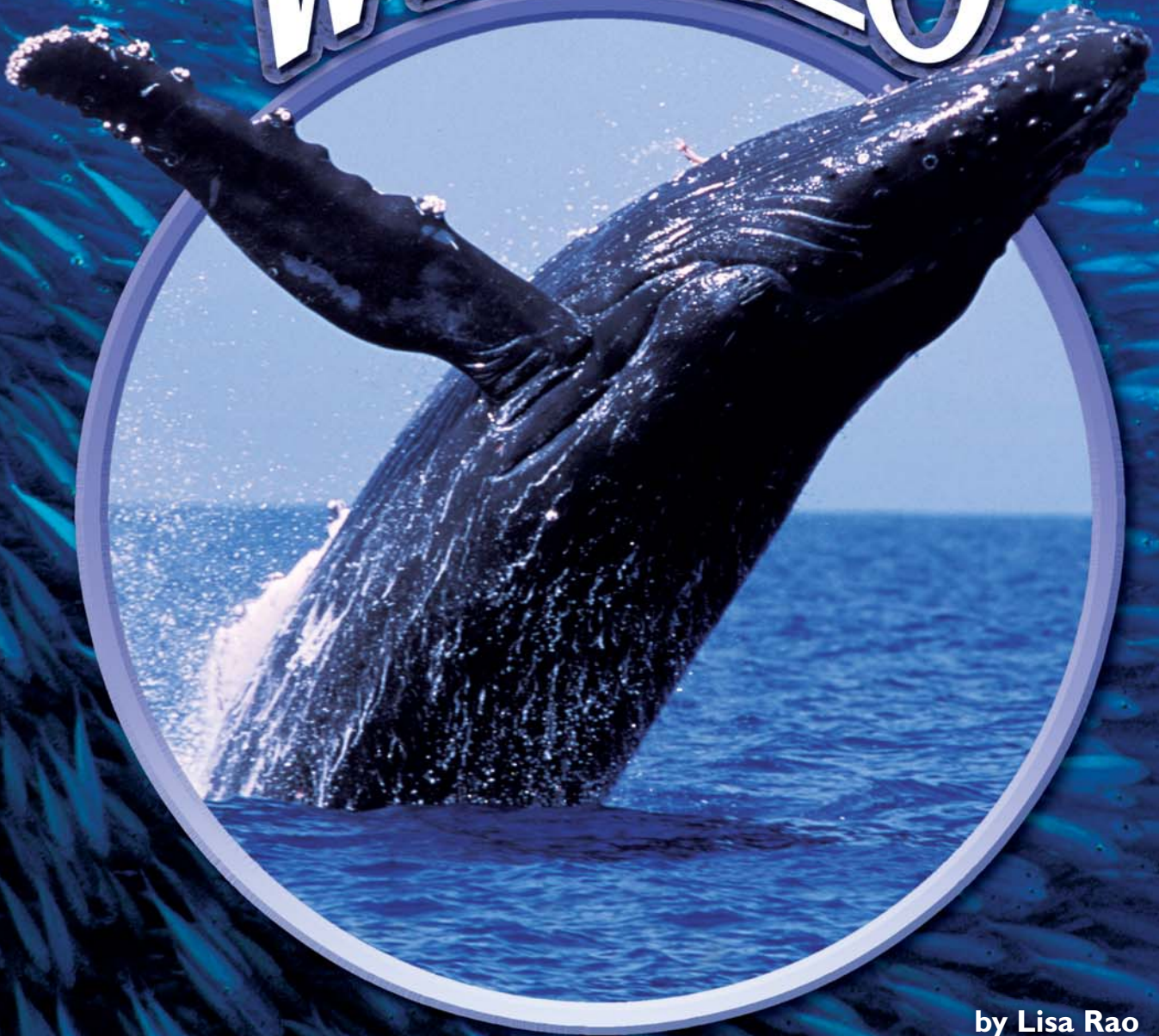


Smart Animals!💡

WHALES

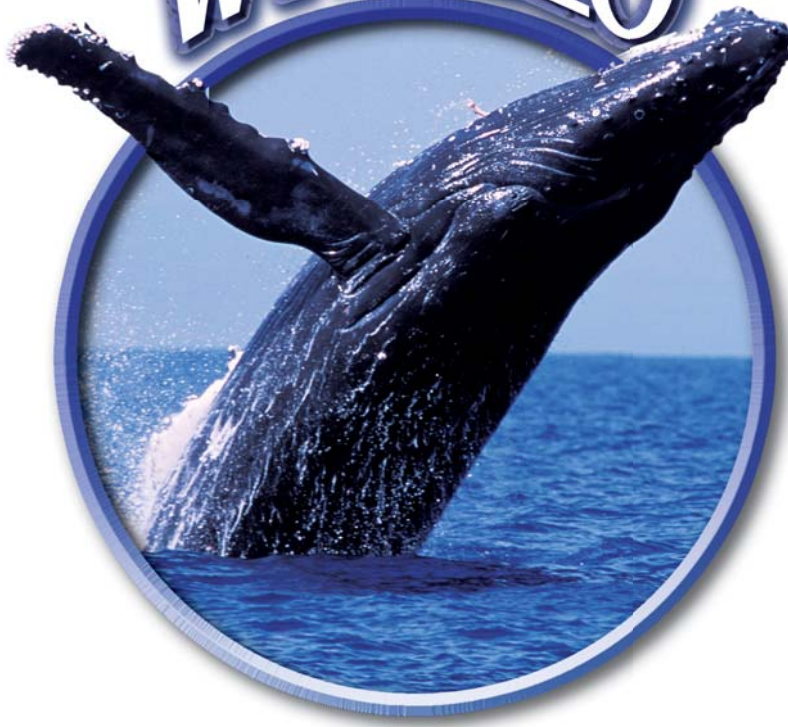


by Lisa Rao

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Smart Animals! 💡

WHALES



by Lisa Rao

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Keeping a Clean Home

It was night at the New York **Aquarium**. Kathy was not asleep, however. She was hunting for objects that had fallen into her pool. Maybe she'd spot a tiny rock or a leaf. Kathy was smart. She knew that if she found something, she would get a special treat.



▲ Visitors at the aquarium enjoyed watching Kathy.

In the morning, Kathy would race over to her **trainers** and open her mouth. On her tongue was one of the small objects she had found.

“We’d call it a gift from Kathy,” said Martha Hiatt, a trainer at the aquarium where Kathy lived. As a **reward** for finding something, Kathy’s trainers would give her a fish—the perfect snack for a beluga whale!



Scientists believe that whales are among the smartest animals in the world.

▲ Martha and Kathy

Listening for Food

There are about 80 kinds of whales. Most of them, including belugas like Kathy, have teeth. They use them to catch fish, squid, octopus, and other **prey**. It's often hard to see in the dark ocean water, however. So how do these clever animals find their food?

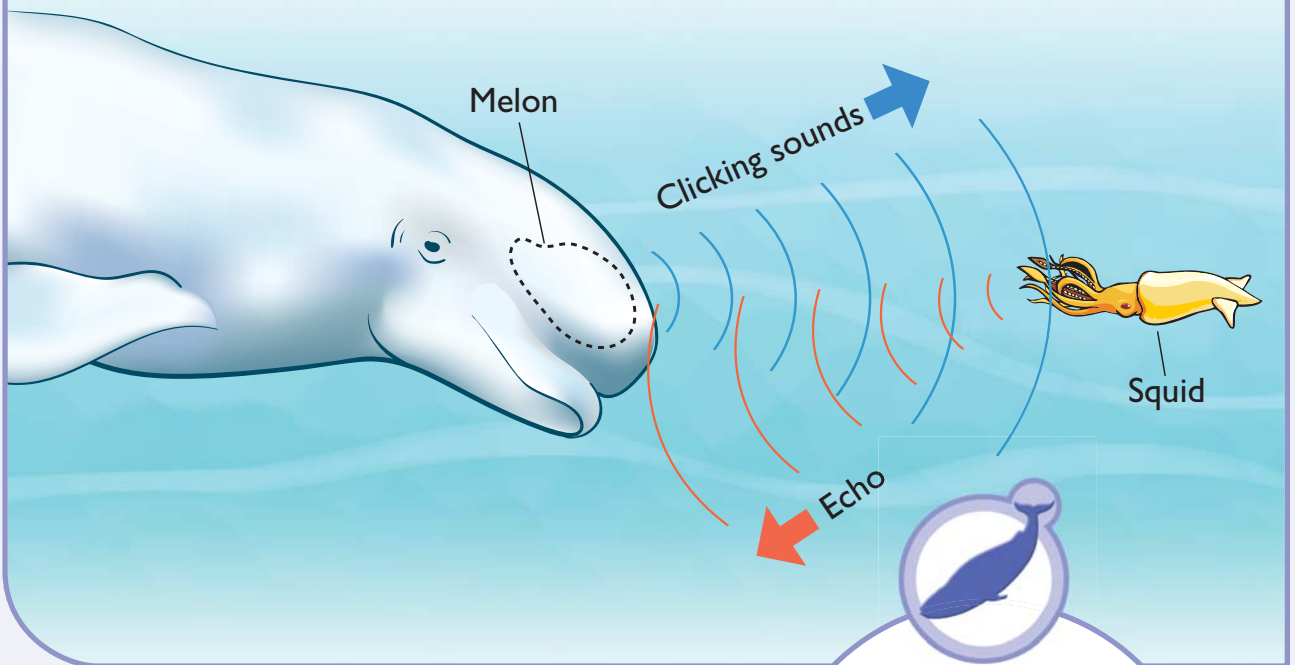


- ▲ **Toothed whales, such as belugas (top) and killer whales (right), do not chew their food. Instead, they tear off pieces of their prey and then gulp them down.**



Most toothed whales use clicking sounds. They aim the clicks with the large, rounded part of their heads called the melon. The sounds bounce off objects and return to the whales. The bouncing sound is called an **echo**. Toothed whales use the echoes to tell the size, shape, and distance of their prey.

Echolocation



▲ Using echoes to find objects is called echolocation.

If an echo bounces back quickly, a whale knows an object is near. If the sound takes longer to hear, the object is farther away.

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About the Author

Lisa Rao has written more than a dozen books for children. When she's not reading or writing, she enjoys swimming and rooting for the New York Mets.

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Smart Animals!

WHALES



It was night at the New York Aquarium. Kathy was hunting for objects that had fallen into her pool. Maybe she'd spot a tiny rock or a leaf. She knew that if she found something, she would get a fish in the morning—the perfect reward for a beluga whale! Look inside to discover more about Kathy and other whales that use their extraordinary brainpower to get food, stay safe, and teach their young.

Chimpanzees Crows Dogs Dolphins
Elephants Gorillas Octopuses
Orangutans Parrots Pigs
Sea Lions Whales Wolves

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