

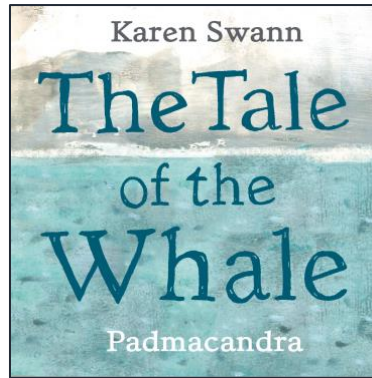
## Ocean Treasure

*And there, on the bottom, a ship with no crew!*

Why do you think the ship is on the bottom of the ocean? How did it get there? What do you think 'A ship with no crew' means? Where are they? What does the ship look like? Is it a sailing boat, a fishing boat or perhaps a pirate ship? Can you draw a picture?

Who do you think the crew members were? How many were there? What jobs did they do? Give them all names. What adventures have they been on and what lands have they travelled to? What sea creatures have they met? Have they seen mermaids? What treasures have they found? Can you write a story about them and their adventures or perhaps tell us why their ship is on the bottom of the sea!





# Plastic Soup Sea

*The soup of the ocean, he'd swallowed it up*

Plastic is cheap to make and is strong and flexible making it incredibly useful for many different things. However, that also means it never really breaks down. We produce over 320 million tonnes of plastic every year (2015) and it is estimated that over 50% of that is on single-use products (such as plastic bags, straws and cups).



The UK throws away 2.5 billion disposable cups a year with less than 1% recycled.



Annually approximately 500 billion plastic bags are used worldwide with more than one million used every minute, however the average plastic bag has a 'working life' of just 15 mins.



A plastic bottle can last for 450 years in the ocean but less than half of the 35 million plastic bottles used in the UK every day are recycled.

More than 8 million tonnes of plastic are dumped into the oceans every year. That's one rubbish truck of plastic every minute

Scientists even found 38 billion fragments of plastic on the uninhabited Henderson Island in the South Pacific.

Every piece of plastic we have ever produced is still with us in some form!

These plastics break down into tiny pieces called microplastics, and there may now be around 5.25 trillion pieces in the ocean, weighing up to 269,000 tonnes which is the same as 1345 adult blue whales and 500 times the number of stars in our galaxy!

*A turtle in trouble, a gull in distress*  
*A tightening collar, a shopping bag mess*

Over **700 species** of marine animals have been reported to have eaten or become entangled in plastic – and scientists think that the amount of plastic in the ocean may **triple** by 2050!



Sea turtles eat plastic bags mistaking them for jellyfish, and slowly starve.



Seals and sea lions can become entangled in abandoned fishing gear. Over 200 different species were recorded in US waters suffering from entanglement in 2014.



Sea birds, such as seagulls and albatross confuse plastic debris for food and feed it to their chicks. In 2015, scientists estimated that 90% of seabirds are likely to have plastic in their tummies.



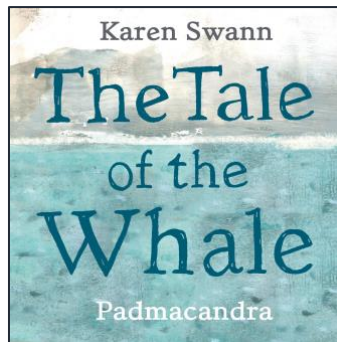
Fish, from the smallest to the largest, swallow the tiny microplastics that attract harmful toxins.

When these fish are eaten by bigger fish and mammals, the toxins build up and damage their health.



Microplastics have even been found in tiny shrimp who live at the bottom of the Marianna Trench and have never even seen daylight!





# The Song of the Whale

*And high on the breeze came his sweet-sounding song -  
“I’ve so much to show you, if you’ll come along.”*

The whale in the story is singing! Have you ever heard a whale’s song? Find one on the internet and have a listen. Strange isn’t it? What do you think that whale is singing about? Is he singing about the ocean or singing to his friends to come and play? Is he telling a story to the dolphins or just singing for his supper? If you could write a song for the whale to sing, what would it say?

Most whales make noises that are groans or clicks or squeals, and some whales, such as sperm whales, use mainly clicks to communicate. But there are some, such as humpback whales, who make a whole variety of sounds that they group together into patterns that they sing over and over again.

There are ocean scientists who study the songs of whales and they noticed something strange. The whales in each group were singing the same song - the same repeated patterns over and over! Each male whale in that group would go around singing it – a bit like a catchy pop song that everyone knows! And over several years the song changes ever so slightly – a click pattern might become a trill – a bit like a pop star adding their own ‘woah, yeah’ into the melody. But the basic song would remain.

Until a whale bumps into a whale from a different part of the world. Singing a new song. Woah! What is this groovy new beat?! And off he would go with some new tunes to sing and teach to his friends.

*And high on the breeze came his sweet-sounding song ~*

Can you make up a song on your own or in a group? What sounds would you make? What would your tune be? Would you use instruments? Does it have a beat? Can you sing it the same way over again? (hint – keep it short and memorable) Is it just a tune or does it have words? If it has words, what do they say?

Now you have your song, can you teach it to someone else or another group? Have a listen to their song. Can you sing it too?

*We danced with the dolphins that waltzed through the sea...*

See if you can make up a dance for your song! Would it be a floaty dance just like the waves of the ocean and swaying plants, or would it be a quick, darting dance like a tiny fish? Would it have jumps and leaps like the dolphins or big crashing moves like the tail slap or breach of a whale? Or would it have them all?!

Practise your dance on your own or in a group and then perhaps perform it to your friends or family.

*“I’ve so much to show you, if you’ll come along.”*

In *The Tale of the Whale*, the song is a call to come on a journey, to experience all the amazing things the ocean has to offer and to understand what is happening to our oceans.

What did you understand from the journey you went on with the whale? What friends did you meet on the way? What else do you think he wants you to know? Was it good or bad?

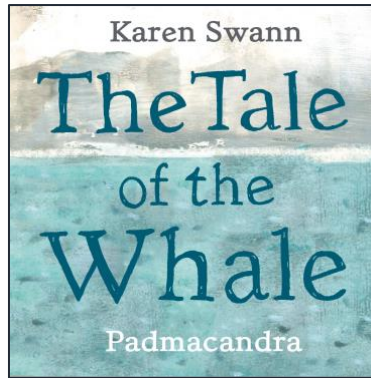
What do you think we should do now we have heard the whale's story?

How are you going to do it? Write your ideas down or draw some pictures.

Tell other people about them and ask them to help.





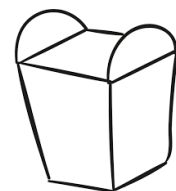
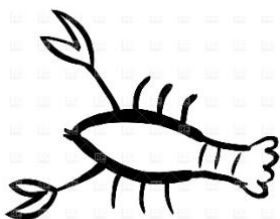
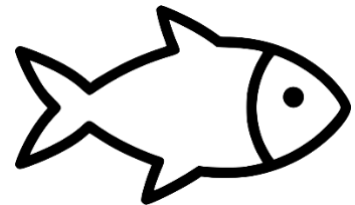
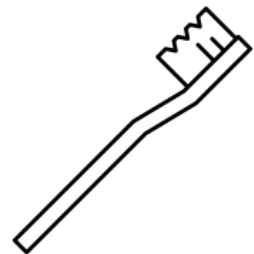
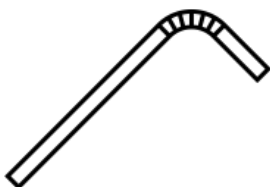


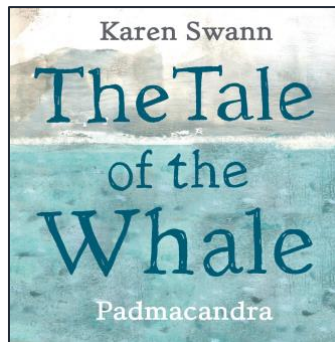
# The Soup of the Ocean

*The whale's tummy rumbled; his mouth opened wide*

The whale is feeding. But look at what he is eating! Some of the things in the ocean are good for the whale and some are definitely not! Can you tell the difference?

Colour in the things that are good for the whale in green and colour in the things the whale shouldn't be eating in red.





# The Whale's Journey

*The whale's tummy rumbled, his mouth opened wide*

The whale in our story is a type of baleen whale called a humpback whale. Humpbacks feed mainly on the surface and are gulp feeders, taking in large mouthfuls of water, closing their mouth part way and filtering the water out through the baleen. The food (or plastic) cannot pass through the baleen and is swallowed whole.

*The cold ice-capped sea*

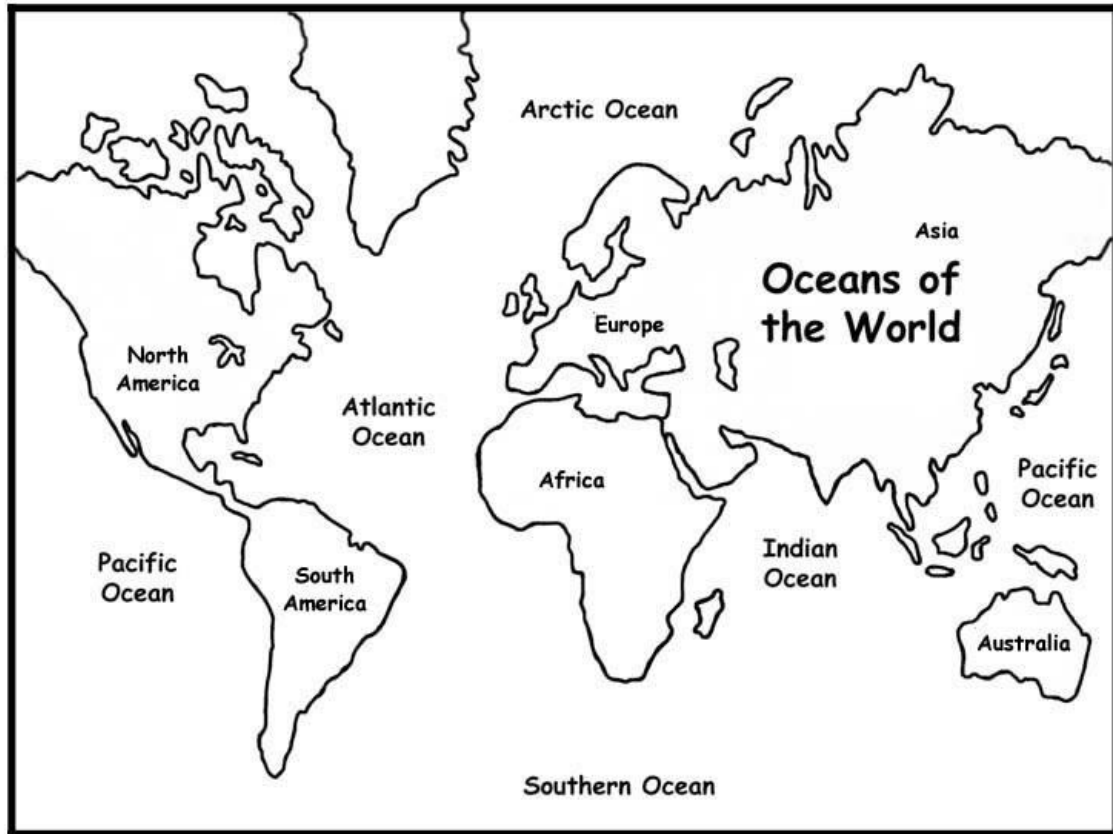
Humpbacks feed on tiny shrimp called krill which are found in the icy waters of the Arctic and Antarctic. Scientists aren't sure why they travel so far from their feeding grounds. Some think it is because their newborn calves need the warmer waters. Some think they migrate to escape predation by killer whales as they can defend themselves and their young more easily in the warmer shallow water.

Whatever the reason, humpback whales don't travel fast (only 3-5 MPH) but they can travel for 24 hours a day and it takes them between 3 weeks and 2 months! They seldom eat while they are travelling and live off their body fat stores. Humpback whales migrate around 5000km on average, one of the longest migratory journeys of any mammal on Earth.

*We sailed the blue ocean with turtles and rays*

Have a look on the internet at the migratory journey of the humpback whale. Make a note of where they start. Which way do they go? What countries do they pass on the way? Where do they end up? Hint: there is more than one group of humpback whales. Can you find more than one route?

On the map below, draw the path of a humpback's journey and mark on some of the countries and sights they might see on the way past. Would they pass any of the other groups of humpback whales? (new song time!)

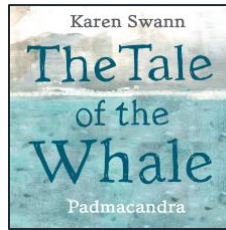


Imagine you are a humpback whale. Write a travel log of your journey. Where do you start and why are you travelling? Use your map above. What places and sights do you see along the way? What adventures do you have? What other creatures do you meet? Do you have an encounter with Killer Whales? What happens!

<b>WHALE LOG</b>
<b>Date:</b> _____
<b>Place:</b> _____
<b>Today we...</b>
_____
_____
_____







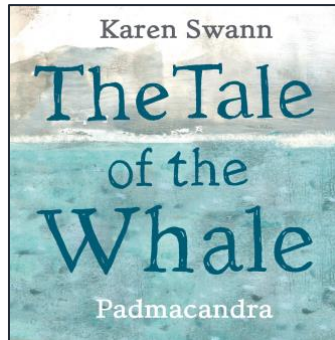
## Word Search

All the words below appear somewhere in the story, and also in the ocean. They might be forwards, backwards, downwards or diagonally. Can you find them all? Can you colour the plastic words in red and the creatures in green?

A	X	Z	D	F	A	H	I	F	Q	O	R	C	D	J
I	D	C	R	I	S	P	P	A	C	K	E	T	E	G
N	Y	O	M	S	I	B	E	Y	A	L	Z	K	C	S
P	C	F	I	H	W	Z	Q	B	T	U	R	T	L	E
B	G	F	S	I	Y	O	C	T	O	P	U	S	F	W
Z	N	E	B	N	Z	W	O	V	O	B	T	E	H	A
H	K	E	O	G	F	B	M	S	T	R	A	W	D	H
V	F	C	U	N	R	D	C	P	H	L	R	I	O	K
L	O	U	Y	E	A	J	N	A	B	G	W	P	L	E
C	O	P	T	T	H	U	W	S	R	A	Y	S	P	T
X	D	A	U	S	Q	T	H	G	U	T	E	K	H	I
V	W	H	I	L	T	B	A	G	S	L	O	R	I	V
M	R	F	K	N	M	Z	L	J	H	F	K	N	N	T
L	A	S	O	X	P	S	E	A	G	U	L	L	S	F
C	P	W	S	R	G	U	J	I	P	O	Q	H	M	J

CRISP PACKET	WATER BOTTLE	TOOTHBRUSH	TURTLE	RAYS
FISHING NETS	FOOD WRAP	SEAGULLS	SHIP	
COFFEE CUP	BAGS	DOLPHINS	FISH	
CARTONS	STRAW	WHALE	OCTOPUS	





# What can we do?

*You've heard the whale's story...*

The whale is asking us for our help. But, what can we do about it?

You may already have heard of recycling and you may have recycle bins at home or at school. But recycling is only one option and should really be our last resort. There are many more things that we can do first! We can...

- Rethink** Think first. Do we actually need it in the first place?
- Refuse** Say no to overpackaging and avoid buying products that are not sustainable or recyclable.
- Reduce** Use less of the items you do need to use. Make a bottle last longer.
- Reuse** Can you reuse it as it is?
- Repurpose** Can you use it for something else? Or make it into something else?
- Respect** Look after things better! Take care. Try not to break or damage.
- Repair** If something does get broken, rather than throwing it away, can it be fixed?
- Rot** Food waste items can be composted if you have space.
- Recycle** If you can't do any of the other things above, sort your recycling carefully and recycle wherever possible. Give it chance to be something different!
- Read** Find books and go on the internet to learn more about our planet and the things we can do to protect it!



*Please, change it with me.*

Recycling is a fantastic way to stop some of our plastics reaching the ocean and affecting the sealife. But wouldn't it be better if we used less plastic in the first place? There are many things we could all start to do. Here are some ideas that you and your family could think about. Colour in the squares if it is something you already do. Look at those you haven't coloured in. Have a chat with your parents / carers. Which of these could you try next? What else could you try? Write some of your own ideas in the blank boxes and give them a go!

Carry a reusable water bottle rather than buying bottled drinks	Pack lunch in reusable containers. Use small pots that can be washed for loose things	Choose not to have balloons at a party		Use wooden colouring pencils rather than plastic felt tip pens
Next time you need a toothbrush, try a wooden one!	Take a reusable bag when you go to the shops. Refuse a plastic one.	Choose fruit rather than sweets or crisps. A banana comes in its own wrapper	Check your cotton buds have paper sticks not plastic. Ask a grown up to help.	
Help with the shopping and buy loose fruit and veg rather than bagged	Choose not to use glitter – go for colour rather than sparkle!		Try to avoid snacks with lots of packaging. Buy larger bags and separate.	Have a 'toy swap' with some friends rather than buying new ones.
Do a litter pick up with an adult and some friends.	Choose cotton or natural fibres next time you buy some clothes	Say no to a straw, unless you need to use one. Sip a drink instead.	Use cloths, cotton wool or a flannel rather than wet wipes.	Only wash clothes when they are dirty at a low temperature if possible
	Bring some cutlery with you when you go out. Refuse the plastic ones.	Use both sides of the paper when drawing and writing. Reuse	Pass some of your old clothes down to younger friends or family	Reuse some packaging /boxes/wrap or wrapping paper



*We ducked under arches, no treasure to see...*

If the whale took you on an adventure, what treasure do you think you might find? Gold? Jewels? Coins? Or perhaps a different kind of treasure. Everyone has things that are really important to them. What is important to you? What would your treasure be? Perhaps a favourite toy or a special book? Maybe a blanket or a photograph or your favourite thing to eat? It could be a person who you love very much or perhaps a pet?

Draw a picture of your treasure in the treasure chest. Perhaps you could show a friend and tell them why your treasure is special to you.

