

# Biology

S+L: Good morning principal, vice principals, teachers and fellow schoolmates.

S: I am Stephanie from class 5D.

L: I am Lareina from class 5D too. We are both studying biology this year.

L: Stephanie, have you heard about the whale in Sai Kung?

S: Oh yes, it was first spotted on 13<sup>th</sup> of July, right?

L: Yes! Do you know that whales are divided into two types according to their eating habits? The first category is Baleen Whales. They have baleen plates or sheets, which sieve prey from seawater. Another type is Toothed whales. They have teeth so they like to eat different kinds of fish.

S: I also know that whales are not fish, they are warm-blooded mammals. They breathe through lungs instead of gills, and they give birth to live young instead of laying eggs. Talking about their habitat, whales can be found swimming in all of the major oceans from the tropical waters around the equator to the freezing Arctic. Lareina, can you tell us more about the whale in Sai Kung?



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L: It was heartbreaking really. The whale was believed to be quite healthy as it was swimming when people found it. But 2 weeks later, its carcass was found floating close to the shore.

S: Oh, that's so sad. How did it happen?

L: Having known about the existing whale in Hong Kong, it sparked a wave of discussion on the internet. Some travel agencies take this as a good opportunity to earn money, which results in many whale-watching tours. Although it is difficult to judge whether the action of humans led to the whale's death. In my opinion, this may not be the direct cause of the whale's death, but they might have hastened its death. By the way, Stephanie, is there anything we should or should not do if a similar situation occurred again?

S: I think the very first thing that we, as part of the community, should do is to show respect to these large marine animals and their habitats. It is also necessary for the government to create effective and prompt strategies and protocols that will address similar situations. It's important and necessary to monitor their health and educate the public on what to do and what not to do during sightings or encounters.



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L: Indeed, the earth's ecosystem consists of different organisms interacting with one another and each and every one of them is important to maintain the fragile balance. If any part of the ecosystem went missing, it would lead to devastating ecological events and finally the collapse of the ecosystem.

S: So let's work together to strive for a balance and protection for our ecosystem!

L+S: That's the end of our sharing. Thank you very much!