



MONDAY
Politics

TUESDAY
Build the Change

WEDNESDAY
Sport

THURSDAY
Science

FRIDAY
Culture

THE DAY
Build a better world



NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S BIG STORY

Iceland says no to yearly fin whale hunt

Should whaling stop for good? Iceland's government has cancelled its whale hunting season, saying it goes against animal welfare laws.

There she blows! A column of spume rises up out of the ocean. Then a tail slaps the surface. The fin whale bursts out, breathing in. These **majestic** mammals will be able to breathe a little easier this year, because Iceland has announced that it will not be hunting them.

Iceland's minister for Food, Agriculture, and **Fisheries**, Svandis Svavarsdottir has said that hunting the whales is **incompatible** with the country's animal welfare laws.

The fin whale is the world's second largest animal, after the blue whale. They can grow to be 25 metres long.



Jump for joy: Iceland will no longer hunt fin whales, the second largest whale on the planet.

THE STORY SO FAR

Iceland is one of very few countries that still hunts whales. It sold most of its catch to Japan, but since Japan started hunting whales commercially in 2019, demand has shrunk.

That's more than twice the length of a London bus.

Whalers hunt them for their meat and the oil that can be made from their **blubber**. In the 20th century, humans killed more than 700,000 fin whales. By that point, there were only 38,000 left.

Because whales were on the precipice of extinction, in 1982, the International Whaling Commission banned all **commercial** whaling.

But some countries, including Japan, Norway, and Iceland, have carried on hunting whales.

Iceland only has one company left with a licence to hunt whales. 2023 is the last year of its licence. Svandis Svavarsdottir has not only suspended this year's hunt, but has cast doubts on the future of the **industry**.

"There is little to justify allowing whaling", she told the press last year.

KEY WORDS

There she blows:

What whalers say when seeing a whale

Spume: Frothing water

Majestic: Grand

Fisheries: Where a country can fish

Incompatible:

Can not go with

Blubber: A whale's fat

Commercial:

For business purposes

Industry: Business



YOU DECIDE

Should whaling stop for good?

YES. Whales are beautiful creatures and they have suffered enough. We should leave them alone.

NO. Whaling has been a way of life for many indigenous people. They show that it can be done sustainably.



THE DETECTIVE ZONE

Build THE Change



CREATE YOUR DESIGN

Many green groups argue that whaling should be replaced by a whale watching industry. Can you design a whale watching vehicle to help showcase whales' beauty?

STEP 1:

Think about your design!
What would your whale watching vessel need? Is it a boat, or something else?

STEP 2:

Build the change!
Draw your whale watching craft. If you have time, why not build it out of LEGO® bricks, or other craft materials?

Share your genius
Show your work to your class!



Upload a photo of your work to the **Build the Change** gallery by scanning the QR code and have your work displayed to inspire real-world change.



BUILDER OF THE WEEK

We've had so many brilliant ideas sent into our Build the Change Gallery so far this year we wanted to share them with you all. Every week we'll handpick one of the most inspirational designs to be our BUILDER OF THE WEEK.

If your photo is used, you'll be entered into a prize draw to win a huge box of LEGO® bricks. To be in with a chance of winning, get your grown up to photograph your creation and upload it to our Build the Change gallery, using the QR code above.



This week's favourite is this amazing glacier wall with fans to stop the ice from melting and fuel boat for power. Great thinking!

"GREAT WORK!"



How long are blue whale calves when born?



- A) 1 metre
- B) 500 centimetres
- C) 8 metres
- D) 5 metres

Talking point

Does the international community have the right to tell countries what they should and shouldn't eat?

Amaze someone

In 1821, a sperm whale rammed whaling ship The Essex, sinking the ship, becoming famous and inspiring the novel Moby Dick.

Whale oil was the main fuel for lamps and oil for machines until the late 19th century. There may not have been an Industrial Revolution without it.

THE EXTRA PAGE

Iceland stops whale hunt

Iceland's government has put an end to this year's whale hunt until the end of August because of animal welfare concerns.

The minister of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Svandís Svavarsdóttir said this week she was suspending all whaling operations.

It follows a report ordered by the government that found the hunt does not work with the country's Animal Welfare Act.

"This activity cannot continue in the future if the authorities and the license holders cannot ensure the fulfilment of the welfare requirements," Svandís Svavarsdóttir said.

Whaling is the act of hunting for and killing whales.

Commercial whaling means hunting whales to sell the things that come from whales, like meat, oil and blubber.

It was banned in 1986 by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) - a group whose job it is to look after whale conservation - after some species became almost extinct.

Iceland, Norway and Japan objected to the ban and have all carried on whaling in some form.

Their actions have been criticised by animal welfare activists and environmentalists.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature, which last



Biggest slice: Japan is by far the largest consumer of whale meat, which they call kujira.

looked at fin whales in 2018, lists them as vulnerable.

This is mostly because of commercial whaling during the 20th Century.

Iceland has only one remaining whaling company, Hvalur, and its licence to hunt fin whales runs out in 2023.

Another company stopped whale hunts in 2020, saying it no longer made money.

It seems there is less interest from Icelanders in eating whale meat and although Japan has a big market for the meat it restarted commercial whaling in 2019, which meant Iceland could no longer sell its meat to Japan.

The whale hunting season usually runs from mid-June to mid-September and Hvalur is unlikely to hunt that late in the season.

Although the suspension is only for

this year, many people think it could mean the end of whaling completely and Hvalur might not have their licence renewed.

Last year the Minister of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries told the press: "There is little to justify allowing whaling" because of the controversial nature of the industry and the low demand these days for whale meat.

A survey in June also showed the majority of Icelanders (51%) were opposed to whale hunting.

Animal welfare organisations have praised the decision of Iceland's government and animal rights group Humane Society International said it was "a major milestone in compassionate whale conservation". ■

This is an edited version of a story from
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Read more on this topic



The Whale Watchers
by Dougie Poynter

Owlet Press



A Whale of the Wild
by Rosanne Parry

Harper Collins

Answer to the puzzle

Blue whale question

C) 8 metres long and weigh a huge 4,000kg!

**Build
THE Change**

This week's challenge is part of the LEGO® Build the Change programme. It can be done at school or as homework, and parents can help upload photos of pupils' work to the online gallery.



Visit the gallery at
<https://bit.ly/btcgallery> and feel free to use it as discussion point in class.