

09 - Whale

Today we've got a whale of an episode for you -- because today's podcast is all about whales.

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2 things your smartypants kid will discover in today's Whales Episode:

Millions of years ago, the whale's ancient ancestors had nostrils at the end of a long, dog-like snout! Through evolution the nostrils moved all the way up the whale's face to the top of its head to be closer to the surface of the water. All whales descend from the Indohyus -- a furry, cat-sized weasel-shaped creature with the nose of a pig and hooves. Scientists believe this creature became a marine mammal 65 million years ago after discovering it was easier to find food in the water.

Here's something we left out, for you to share:

Whales are able to use about 90% of the oxygen from the air they breathe, compared to humans who only use around 15%. This allows whales to take deep breaths and stay underwater much longer than humans -- sometimes as long as 90 minutes!

Wanna keep the learning going after the episode?

During the episode we describe the cat-sized, weasel-shaped, whale ancestor, the Inodhyus. Ask your child to draw their version of this ancient whale ancestor from 65 million years ago! Or, if they'd rather draw a whale that's great too! Don't forget to draw our trusty Narrator shooting out its blow hole! Happy drawing!

Whales are among the most endangered species on earth. There are many great organizations dedicated to protecting whales from human and environmental threats. If your kids would like to learn more check out Sea Shepherd, Oceanic Preservation Society, or Save the Whales. Happy Smarting,

New episodes of WHO SMARTED? are released every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. From science & history, to the ocean and deep space, every fun-filled episode takes kids on a journey of discovery and inspiration with STEM-based educational content.¹

¹ This activity guide is for the Who Smarted? podcast www.WhoSmarted.com