Baleen whale feeding experiment

Materials

* Rectangle Tupperware container
* Water
* Plastic animals (just for fun)
* Comb
* Krill (Thyme or dried parsley)

Instructions:

This one is an easy one. First, fill up your Tupperware container about a ¾ way. Add your plastic animals to the water and the krill (thyme or dried parsley).

Experiment:

Have you ever wonder how the big giant whales eat? Or how about what they eat? Well in this experiment we are going to see just how it works. All you have to do it take your comb and run it through the water very slowly. Try and collect as many krill (thyme or dried parsley) as you can and place them on a paper towel. Was that hard? Did you collect a lot of krill? How many krill do you think you collected? How is this different from how we eat or how a shark eats?

Discussion:

Baleen whales have something called baleen plates which was represented as our comb today in our experiment. They have different ways of feeding but the most common way is filter feeding. Just like the comb, they swim slow or fast in the water and try to collect as much krill as possible. Their baleen plates filter all of the water out and keep all the krill inside their mouth for them to swallow. Baleen whales eat for about 3-4 months straight and consume from 2,000-300,000 pounds a day. During their feeding season they gain 15-30 percent of their body weight.

I hope you had fun learning today!!! Feel free to keep checking out our page for fun and exciting ways to learn about marine mammals and marine biology.