

Worksheet: Baleen Whale Evolution

Complete this worksheet while visiting the exhibit *Science Spotlight: Baleen Whale Evolution* at The Nat. Examine the three whale skull specimens. Draw each one in the boxes below. Then, answer the following questions.

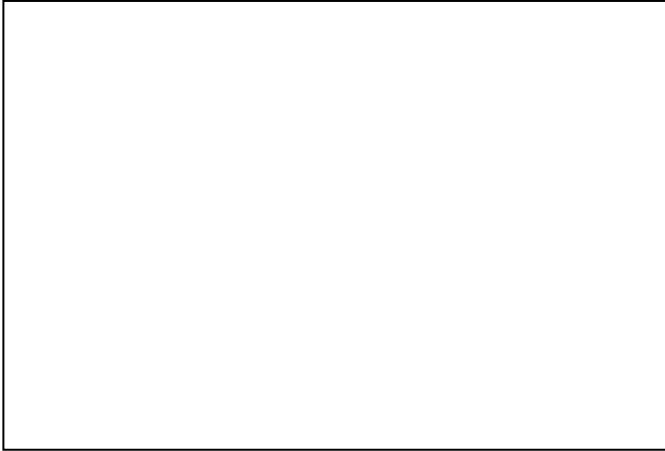
<div data-bbox="270 423 606 521"><p>Ancient Whale Skull <i>Dorudon atrox</i></p></div>	<div data-bbox="831 423 1293 521"><p>Ancient Baleen Whale Skull <i>Aetiocetus weltoni</i></p></div>	<div data-bbox="1459 423 1948 521"><p>Minke Whale Skull <i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i></p></div>
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1. How old is the ancient whale?
How old is the ancient baleen whale?
How many years did it take the ancient whale to evolve to have baleen plates?
2. Besides the way the whales eat, what other differences do you notice between the three skulls?
3. Why do you think the whales evolved to have baleen?

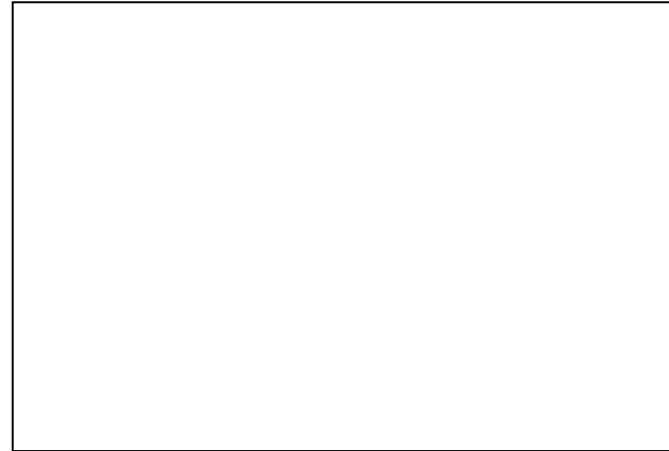
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1. Draw the baleen **plates** (small pieces).



2. Draw the baleen **rack** (large piece).



3. Describe the baleen (shape, size, texture).

4. Examine the whale fetus. How do scientists know the ancestors of baleen whales had teeth?