

# Why Kill Whales?

We need to stop killing whales. Whales have graced our oceans for millions of years. They are clever, magnificent, and some say magical, animals. Not many of us ever get to see them in their natural habitat and to really appreciate how special they are.

For many years, these gentle giants have suffered at the hands of the human race. Today, whales are killed mainly for meat that is eaten in luxury restaurants and homes in Iceland, Norway and Japan. Over the years, however, they have been slaughtered to provide many products. Blubber used to be boiled down to make oil for oil-lamps or used in the production of margarines and soaps. Vitamin A was obtained from the liver and insulin extracted from the pancreas. Oil from the head of some whales has been used in candles and in cosmetics. How do you think they feel?

Now there are substitutes for all whale products. For example, vegetable oils are used in margarine and oil from the jojoba bean can replace whale oil. There is no longer any need to kill whales to find ingredients for our products.

The Japanese whalers place more importance on whale meat than oil. Despite superabundance worldwide of protein-rich food, such as beef, poultry and dairy products, Japan would like to continue to consume whale meat. Japan is a country with many millions of people squeezed onto a small living space, so there is limited land for agricultural expansion. Japan has a tradition of exploiting the sea as its main source of food and it sees whales as a normal part of its harvest. Indeed, the Japanese do not recognise that whaling is cruel. We must make sure that we put a stop to whaling.

Whale meat in Japan is not an important element of the Japanese diet. The ordinary man-in-the-street doesn't buy it. It's a luxury food served at the most expensive restaurants to those who can afford it.

So, no-one should accept the argument that killing whales is necessary anymore. Let's stop this cruel and mindless destruction of one of our planet's most amazing creatures - before it's too late!

- 1) Can you identify any imperative verbs in this text? What are they?
- 2) Can you identify any emotive language in this text? Give at least 3 examples.
- 3) What other features of persuasive writing can you identify in this text?
- 4) How does it make you feel?
- 5) Do you think it is effective? Why?
- 6) Identify three things that persuade you that we should not kill the whales.
- 7) Write 5 sentences to try and persuade us that we should protect the whales, using the different features.