KILLER WHALE TALES

Kids Making a Difference Now!
Helping SRKWs At Your Home

Hello,

Today, we shared our Killer Whale Tales program with your child at school. They learned a great deal about the natural history, biology, and the current challenges facing of our endangered Southern Resident killer whale population. Most importantly, your child learned that they can help these animals at home by making some small changes in the reducing their family's environmental footprint.

Please read the directions below with your child and complete this activity sheet as thoroughly as possible. When done return it to your child's teacher by the due date. Once the teacher has collected the sheets, they will return them to us at KWTales. We will then generate a "report card" that summarizes the class/schools effort to reduce their environmental impact. We will send these results back to the participanting class so they can review and celebrate their collective efforts.

Most importantly, all participants, will receive a set of orca cards (via their teachers) for completing this activity.

Thank you for taking the time to work with your child on this activity. Your involvement demonstrates to them the powerful impact each of us can make as we work together to help the Southern Resident killer whales and the habitat that supports us all.

For more information about this activity (and a resource page) please visit www.killerwhaletales.org.

Hey orca researchers, let's look at your family's environmental "footprint" and find ways for you to help the whales at your home. With the help of an adult, complete this worksheet by filling out or circling your answers and commiting to make a change. Have fun collecting the data and analyzing!

If you cannot answer a question, or choose not to, please cross out (X) that entire section.

(This lets us know that you considered it and not simply skipped it)

Share Your SRKW Knowledge

Did you share what you learned today during Killer Whale Tales with your pod at home?

Yes No *(Remember: Poop is scientifically important! S4!)*

(Circle one)

Energy Efficient Light Bulbs Save Power

Will you commit to using energy efficient lightbulbs the next time the bulb burns out?

(Circle one)

Yes No *All of our bulbs are already EE*

(Circle one)

Recycled Paper Saves Trees

Each year the region's salmon use the forests, rivers, and streams to spawn and grow.
Undisturbed forests = healthy salmon runs.

Does your family buy recycled and/or chlorine-free recycled paper products (office paper, toilet paper, paper towels, etc)?

Yes No

If no, how likely are you to purchase these items in the future? *(1 = not likely, 5 = very likely)*

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

(Circle one)

Save Fuel and Reduce Pollution

Do you have a vehicle in your household? Yes/No

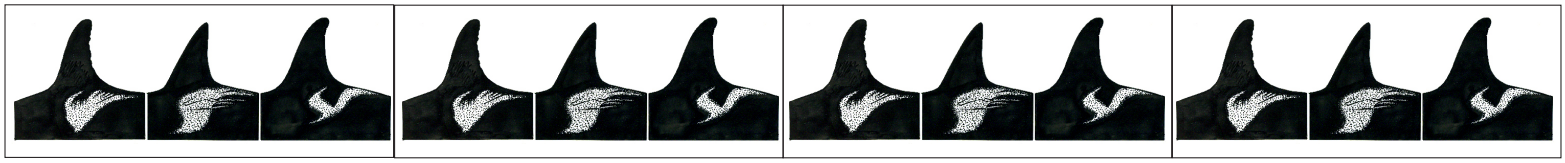
(If no, you can skip this one and still get orca cards)

If yes, circle the photo that best represents the way your tires look right now:

If no, how likely are you to correctly inflate your tires in the future? *(1 = not likely, 5 = very likely)*

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

(Circle one)



Turn Down The Heat/Help Salmon

Salmon depend on a specific water temperature to regulate their lives. Help keep the climate temperature stable by reducing the heat and the burning of fossil fuels that we use to create electricity.

Circle the current season: **Fall** **Winter** **Spring**

What is your thermostat set at? _____ *(degrees/setting)*

I can save energy by turning it a few degrees:

Up **Down** *(Circle one)*

(Complete only if your thermostat has degrees)

Thermostat temperature before: _____°F
Thermostat temperature after: -_____°F
Thermostat temperature difference: =_____°F grees

Composting: Food and Yard Waste

Organic waste in landfills generates methane, a potent greenhouse gas. By composting food scraps and other organics, methane emissions are significantly reduced.

Do you compost your food and / or yard waste?

Yes *No*

(Circle one)

If you don't currently compost, how likely are you to do so in the future? *(1 = not likely, 5 = very likely)*

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

(Circle one)

Single-Use Plastics Pollute the Ocean

500 million straws are used and discarded every day in the United States alone. Plastics that end up as ocean debris contribute to habitat destruction and kill tens of thousands of marine animals each year.

Will you commit to saying "no, thank you" to plastic straws the next time you are offered one?

(Reusable metal straws are a great alternative)

Yes *No* *We already do*

(Circle one)

Local Food = Less Pollution

Local food doesn't create large carbon footprints through overseas plane travel or long truck trips. This cuts down on fuel consumption and air pollution.

Do you have access to and use a local food garden?

Yes *No*

(Circle one)

If no, how willing are you to start growing your own food, pesticide free, in your windowsill, neighborhood, or school? *(1 = not likely, 5 = very likely)*

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

(Circle one)

Be Whale Wise

Sometimes we forget that our presence has an effect on wildlife. Just like us, marine animals need space to find food, choose mates, raise young, socialize, and rest.

Will you commit to "Being Whale Wise" and stay at least 400 yards away from the whales?

Yes *No* *I only watch from the beach*

(Circle one)

For more info go to www.bewhalewise.org

Healthy Food = Healthy Orcas

Organic food is food that has been grown without pesticides that are toxic to the salmon that SRKWs depend on for food.

Do you buy foods that are grown without pesticides?

Yes *No* *We will try from now on*

(Circle one)

Do you use products that have this label on the packaging?

USDA ORGANIC

Yes *No* *We already do*

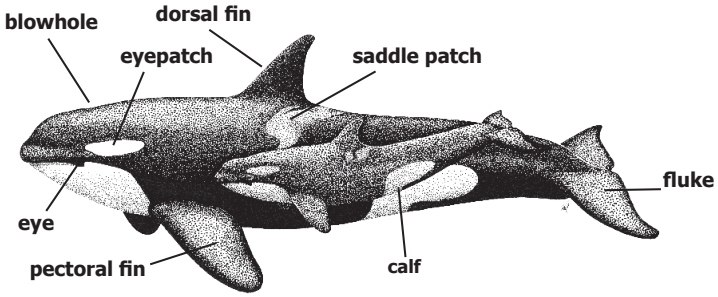
(Circle one)

If no, how willing are you to start using organic products in the future?

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

(1 = not likely, 5 = very likely)

(Circle one)



You are the change we are looking for...

Did you draw a picure and write a letter to someone, asking them to help the whales at their home?

Yes *No* *(Remember:you get extra cards if you do!)*

(Circle one)

Reduce Your Electrical Usage

We get a lot of our electrical power from hydroelectric dams. These dams generate electricity by blocking the free flow of river water. Reducing our usage will save water for the SRKW's favorite food: salmon!

Step 1. Scavenger Hunt!

Start by writing down each of the electronic devices that are currently using electricity in your home.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Step 2. Save energy!

Unplug any devices that are not being used and circle those items on your list above.

Step 3. Just the lights!

Count how many lights are in your house. Please turn off any lights that are not being used.

Number of lights you turned off: _____
Number of lights that are still on: + _____
Number of lights in the home = _____

Recycling at Home

Recycling decreases emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change and conserves natural resources such as timber and water, protecting salmon!

Estimate how many items of each type that you recycle per week.

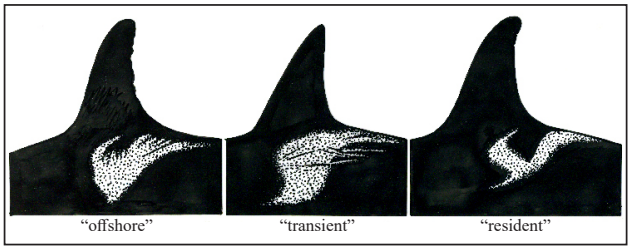
Per week I recycle about:

#_____ ***Glass Bottles***
#_____ ***Cans***
#_____ ***Sheets of paper***
#_____ ***Plastic Bottles***
#_____ ***Cardboard boxes***

If you don't recycle one or more of these items, how likely are you to do so in the future?
(1 = not likely, 5 = very likely)

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

(Circle one)



Time your water usage

Salmon depend on the regular flowing of the region's rivers. Help them have enough by cutting back on your use.

Brushing your teeth: Session 1
From start to finish, the water ran for: _____ *(seconds)*

Water saver challenge! The next time you brush your teeth, try saving water by shutting it off ASAP.

Brushing your teeth: Session 2
From start to finish,the water ran for: _____ *(seconds)*

Seconds of water running before: _____
Seconds of water running after: - _____
Seconds of water running difference: = _____

(skip if down if you take a bath)

Showering: Session 1
How long is the water running while you shower?
_____ **minutes (min)** *(Round to nearest minute)*

Water saver challenge!

Showering: Session 2
How long is the water running while you shower?
_____ **minutes (min)** *(Round to nearest minute)*

Shower water running before: _____
Shower water running after: - _____
Shower water running difference: = _____ *(nearest minute)*

Bathing: Session 1
BEFORE you get in your bath, use a ruler to measure the depth of your bathwater.

My bath water level is _____ inches deep

Water saver challenge!

Bathing: Session 2
My bath water level is _____ inches deep

Bath water level before: _____
Bath water level after: - _____
Bath water level difference: = _____

What Else Do You Do?

Please list any other things, not previously mentioned, that you and your family do to "reduce, reuse, and recycle".

_____

_____

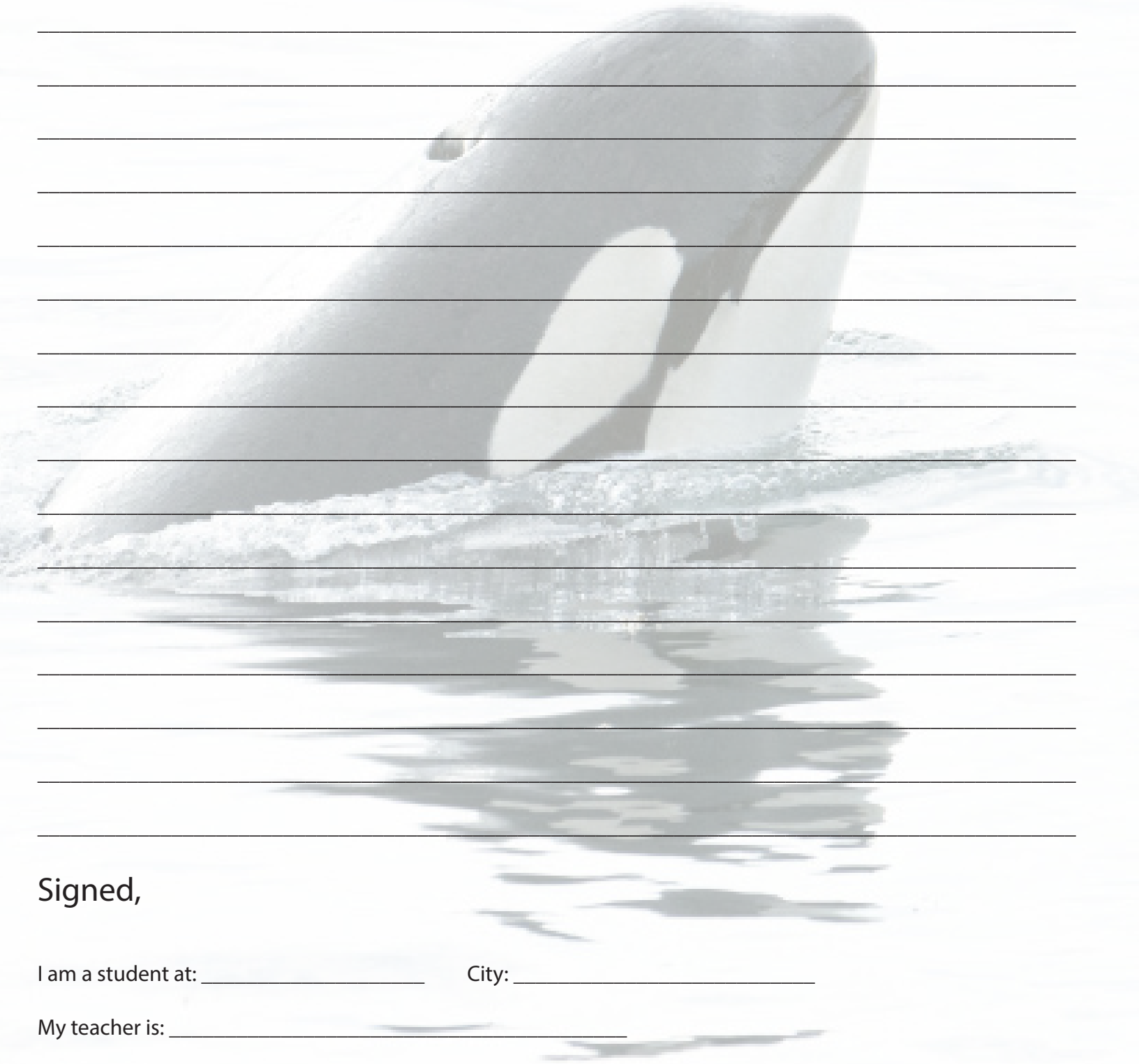
_____

Now get this sheet back to your teacher, so that you and your classmates can get more orca cards!)

You are the change we are looking for... extra credit!!!

Last year in Washington State, the Governor created an orca task force, charged with finding ways for everyone to come together and help the Southern Resident killer whales. The task force is listening to ideas from everyone, and that means you. If you want, write a short letter to Governor Insley, telling him what you like about the Southern Residents and why they are important to you. We will send your letters on to him and the task force so that you too can have a say when it comes to the future of the Puget Sound and the whales you care about.

Dear Governor Inslee,



Signed,

I am a student at: _____ City: _____

My teacher is: _____