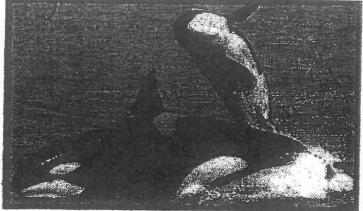
Reading NTI Day # 6



## Orca

The orca whale, or killer whale as it is also known, is found in all the oceans around the world. This very smart mammal can weigh up to 6 tons and can be as long as 26 feet. They are black and white in color and have a large dorsal fin on the top of their backs. The area behind their dorsal fin is called a saddle patch. Their saddle patch can be lighter in color and is unique to each animal. This is one way scientist and biologist can identify orcas in the wild. Orcas live in family groups called pods. These pods can have as many as 40 whales! The pod is very important to the killer whale because this is how they hunt, protect their babies and live. Just like elephants, orca pods have fémale leaders. Killer whales are at the top of the food chain, without any natural enemies. They are also excellent hunters. Using the power of the pod, killer whales work together to circle around prey, like seals and penguins. They use their large size and strength in numbers to tire their prey and eventually beach them on land. This means they force the smaller animal onto land or small piece of ice where they are usually made into a meal very quickly. Using the same communication techniques as bats, killer whales use clicks and whistles to "talk" to other whales in their pod. This is called echolocation. The killer whale population is strong, however hunting, limited food availability and pollution are a few problems that they face in their ocean habitat. Killer whales are definitely a sight to see!

Name:

## Writing About Reading

On the back, write to explain why the orca pod is important. Use specific examples from your text to support your answer!

Underline the part in the text that supports your answer.

- 1. What does the word **beach** mean in this passage?
- 2. How are orcas and elephants similar?
- 3. How do orcas use echolocation?

 Use inferencing skills to figure out why having limited food availability might hurt the wild orca population.

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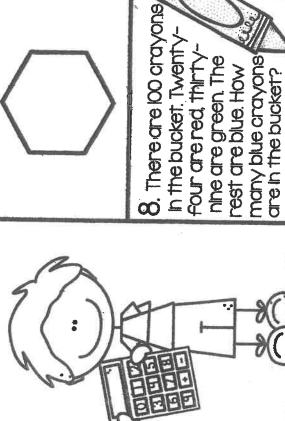
Name

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How Students Get to School

400-

**2** 

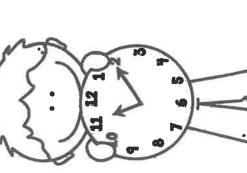


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## O. What time is It?

7. Name this shape.





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