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## **Level 1**

# **Number of blue whales increasing**

**10th September, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1409/140910-blue-whale-1.html>

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1409/140910-blue-whale-1.html>

Scientists have good news - numbers of blue whales in the eastern Pacific Ocean are at their highest in over a century. Researchers say there are over 2,200 blue whales between Mexico and Alaska. Hunters nearly made them extinct until whaling became illegal in 1971. Since then, they started increasing in number. It has taken 40 years for them to recover. Dr Cole Monnahan was very happy. He said: "For us, this is a great conservation success story."

Dr Monnahan said the number of blue whales might not rise above 2,200. He said: "If there were about 2,200 whales to begin with, then that is what the environment can support." He warned that the creature still needs protection and monitoring. He said without this, the whales could become extinct. He added that the increase in numbers shows, "the ability of blue whale populations to rebuild under careful management and conservation measures".

Sources: <http://www.foxnews.com/science/2014/09/08/study-california-blue-whale-population-rebounds-from-whaling/>  
<http://www.calacademy.org/sciencetoday/californias-blue-whale-population-rebounding/5516878/>  
<http://time.com/3297045/california-blue-whales/>

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1409/140910-blue-whale-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Scientists have                      | a. over a century      |
| 2. the eastern                          | b. illegal in 1971     |
| 3. at their highest in                  | c. good news           |
| 4. Researchers say there are over       | d. for them to recover |
| 5. Hunters nearly made them             | e. story               |
| 6. whaling became                       | f. 2,200               |
| 7. It has taken 40 years                | g. Pacific Ocean       |
| 8. this is a great conservation success | h. extinct             |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. the number of blue whales might not | a. to begin with          |
| 2. there were about 2,200 whales       | b. conservation measures  |
| 3. that is what the environment        | c. extinct                |
| 4. the creature still                  | d. can support            |
| 5. whales could become                 | e. populations to rebuild |
| 6. the increase                        | f. rise above 2,200       |
| 7. the ability of blue whale           | g. needs protection       |
| 8. careful management and              | h. in numbers             |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1409/140910-blue-whale-1.html>

Scientists (1) \_\_\_\_\_ - numbers of blue whales in the eastern Pacific Ocean (2) \_\_\_\_\_ in over a century. Researchers say (3) \_\_\_\_\_ 2,200 blue whales between Mexico and Alaska. Hunters nearly made them extinct until whaling (4) \_\_\_\_\_ 1971. Since then, they started (5) \_\_\_\_\_. It has taken 40 years for them to recover. Dr Cole Monnahan was very happy. He said: "For us, (6) \_\_\_\_\_ conservation success story."

Dr Monnahan said (7) \_\_\_\_\_ blue whales might not rise above 2,200. He said: "If there were about 2,200 whales (8) \_\_\_\_\_, then that is what the environment can support." He warned that (9) \_\_\_\_\_ needs protection and monitoring. He said without this, the whales could (10) \_\_\_\_\_. He added that the increase in numbers shows, "(11) \_\_\_\_\_ blue whale populations (12) \_\_\_\_\_ careful management and conservation measures".

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1409/140910-blue-whale-1.html>

Scientists have good news - numbers of blue whales in the eastern Pacific Ocean are at their highest in over a century. Researchers say there are over 2,200 blue whales between Mexico and Alaska. Hunter snearly made them extinct until whaling became illegal in 1971. Since then, they started increasing in number. It has taken 40 years for them to recover. Dr Cole Monnahan was very happy. He said: "For us, this is a great conservation success story." Dr Monnahan said the number of blue whales might not rise above 2,200. He said: "If there were about 2,200 whales to begin with, then that is what the environment can support." He warned that the creature still needs protection and monitoring. He said without this, the whales could become extinct. He added that the increase in numbers shows, "the ability of blue whale population to rebuild under careful management and conservation measures".

# WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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e)

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f)

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g)

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h)

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*Number of blue whales increasing – 10th September, 2014*  
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# WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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e)

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f)

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g)

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h)

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