**Whales (non-fiction)**

Whales have been swimming in the oceans for millions of years. They are large, gentle mammals. Whales are warm-blooded and have no fur. They have a thick layer of fatty blubber to keep them warm.

Toothed whales have teeth. Baleen whales have no teeth. Humpback whales and blue whales have no teeth. They sieve tiny sea creatures called krill into their mouths. Killer whales have teeth. They will eat almost anything in the sea.

Whales swim by moving their tails up and down. They must swim to the surface of the water to breathe air.

Whales make lots of different sounds. They squeal, groan, yip, and wail. These sounds travel through the water and can be heard from a long way away.

A baby whale is called a calf. They are born with very little blubber so females usually give birth in the warm seas.

The blue whale is coming extinct because when fishermen drag along their nets and blue whales get tangled in them and can't get air to breathe and by the time the fishermen pull up the nets it's too late.

Now try to answer the question:

1. How long have whales been swimming in the oceans?

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5. How do whales swim?

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6. Why do whales swim to the surface of the water?

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9. What do the final three words mean “it’s too late”

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