

The Snail and the Whale and Friends Outdoor Activity Book

Based on the picture books by
Julia Donaldson  Axel Scheffler

Make a Whale Friend

Learn how to make your very own humpback whale out of an old sock.

Adventure kit:

- A grown-up's old sock
- Safety scissors
- Some soil
- A spoon
- An elastic band
- Double-sided tape
- Two buttons
- Cress seeds
- Some water

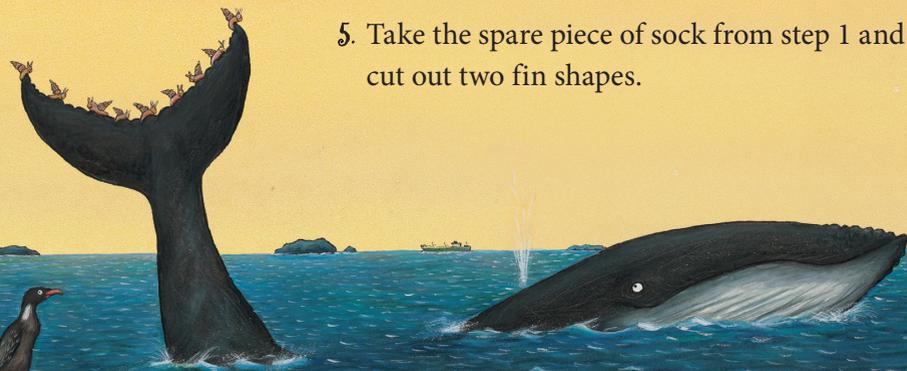
What to do:

1. Lay your sock out flat and carefully cut off the top third. Put the cut-off piece to one side for later.
2. Now use your spoon to fill the sock three quarters full with soil. Ask a grown-up to hold the sock open to help you get the soil right to the bottom.
3. Wrap an elastic band around the open end of the sock so that the soil is held inside.

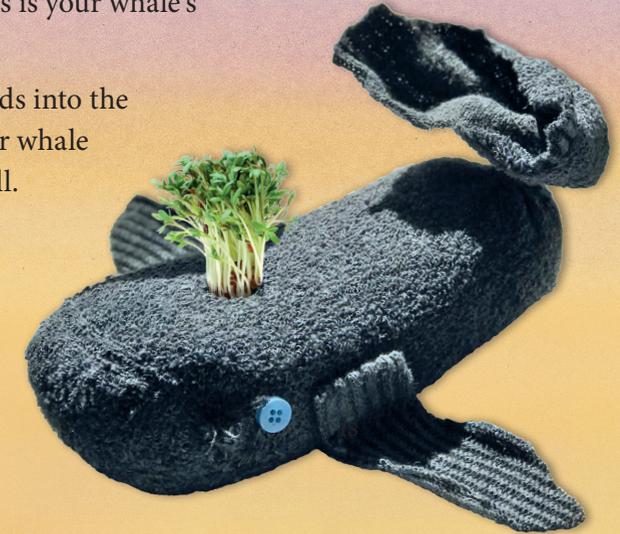
Your sock whale should now look a bit like a tadpole, with a big fat body and a flappy tail.

4. Cut out a wide triangle from the middle of the tail section so that it is the same shape as a whale's tail.

5. Take the spare piece of sock from step 1 and cut out two fin shapes.

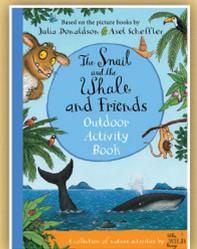


6. Stick these fins onto your whale's body and the button eyes onto its head using some small squares of double-sided tape.
7. Push the soil around inside your whale until it is the shape you want it to be.
8. On your whale's back, pinch a small bit of sock between your thumb and finger. Pull this up and cut off the pinched bit to make a hole around 1cm across. This is your whale's blowhole.
9. Sprinkle some cress seeds into the blowhole, then pop your whale onto a sunny windowsill. Pour a little water into its blowhole each day and soon your cress will start growing. The cress will make it look like your whale spouting water!



Keep adventuring:

Once your cress has grown big and tall, snip it off and use it to sprinkle over a salad or add it to a sandwich. Then sow some more cress seeds to start the growing all over again. How many different sized socks can you find to make whales with? Perhaps you could make a whole family! Why not try finding an empty snail shell to pop on your whale's tail too?



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Try a Sensory Story

Can you hear, feel, smell and taste the story?

Adventure Kit: *The Snail and the Whale* story book, some sensory props like those suggested below, a tray or table to put your props on, a scarf or a strip of material to be a blindfold and someone to read the story.

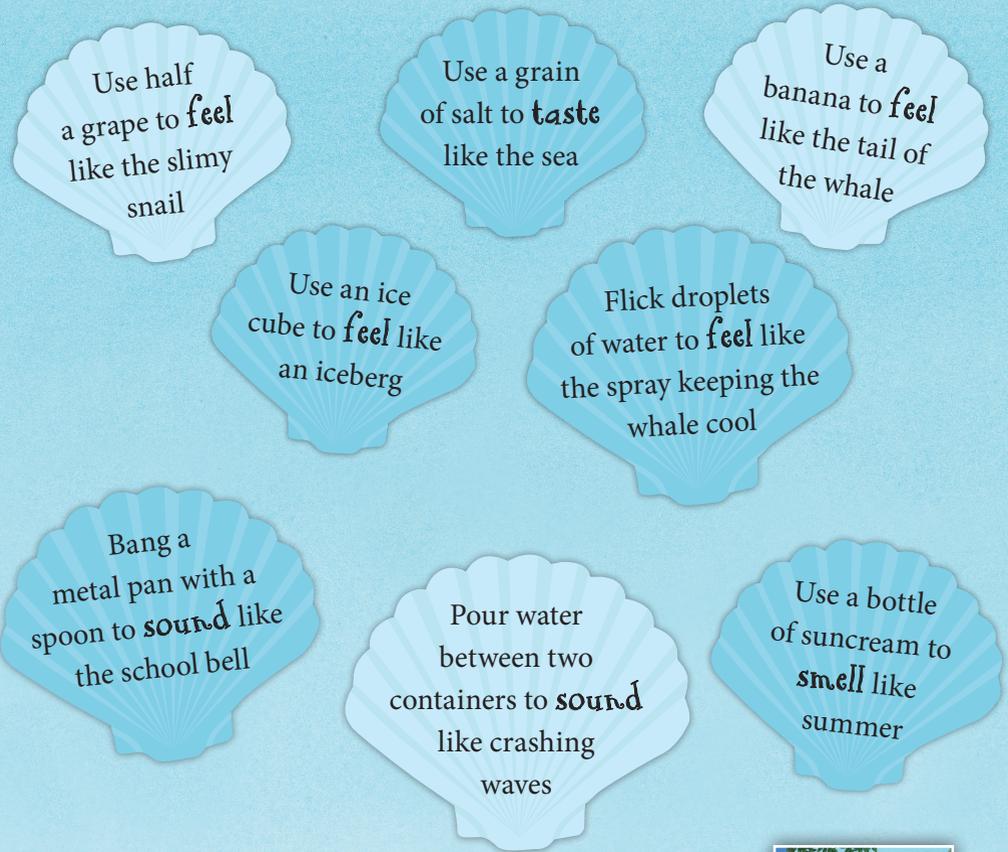
What to do:

We all love the story of *The Snail and the Whale*, but have you ever tried reading it without looking at the pictures? In this activity, you will be using your other senses to experience the story by using a variety of props. There might be something to touch, something to listen to and occasionally even something to smell or taste! Try not to look at the props before you start so you'll be surprised by all the different sensations . . . Ready for the challenge? Then read on!

First ask a grown-up to collect all the props you'll need and lay them out on a tray or table. Then put on your blindfold and make sure there are no holes for you to peep through!

Ask your grown-up to read the story aloud, and every time a certain thing is mentioned, give you something to feel, hear, smell or taste. For example, when the snail's trail is mentioned, they can run a wet paintbrush over the back of your hand to feel like the slimy trail.

Instead of using your eyes to look at the pictures, you'll be using your other senses so the story really comes to life in your imagination!



Keep adventuring:

Once your grown-up has read the story to you, why not get them to put the blindfold on so you can do a sensory story for them? You can try this idea with any of your favourite picture books or use your super senses to hear, smell and touch the world around you when you're next out on a walk.

