**ACTIVITY**

1. Read the provided text on Killer Whales
2. In groups, use the skills discussed in this session to improve on the communication of that text. Think:
   * 1. Who is your audience?
     2. What are the key points you want them to take away?
     3. How could you make this information easier to consume?
     4. What visual aids could you include?
3. Design your new version on the butchers paper
4. Share and discuss – are others able to identify your key points? What did you find challenging?

**Killer Whale**

The **killer whale** or **orca** (*Orcinus orca*) is a [toothed whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toothed_whale) belonging to the [oceanic dolphin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oceanic_dolphin) family, of which it is the largest member. Killer whales have a diverse diet, although individual populations often specialize in particular types of prey. Some feed exclusively on fish, while others hunt [marine mammals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_mammal) such as [seals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinniped) and dolphins. They have been known to attack [baleen whale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baleen_whale) calves, and even adult whales. Killer whales are [apex predators](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apex_predator), as there is no animal that preys on them. Killer whales are considered a [cosmopolitan species](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cosmopolitan_species), and can be found in each of the world's oceans in a variety of marine environments, from [Arctic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arctic_Ocean) and [Antarctic regions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Ocean) to tropical seas.

Killer whales are highly [social](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_animal); some populations are composed of [matrilineal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matrilineal) family groups (pods) which are the most stable of any animal species.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-FOOTNOTEFordEllisBalcomb200012-5) Their sophisticated hunting techniques and vocal behaviours, which are often specific to a particular group and passed across generations, have been described as manifestations of [animal culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_culture).[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-rendell-6)

The [International Union for Conservation of Nature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Union_for_Conservation_of_Nature) currently assesses the orca's [conservation status](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conservation_status) as [data deficient](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_deficient) because of the likelihood that two or more killer whale types are [separate species](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Species_problem). Some local populations are considered [threatened](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Threatened_species) or [endangered](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endangered_species) due to prey depletion, [habitat loss](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habitat_loss), pollution (by [PCBs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polychlorinated_biphenyl)), capture for [marine mammal parks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_mammal_park), and [conflicts with human fisheries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commercial_fishing#Environmental_Risk). In late 2005, the [Southern Resident Killer Whales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Resident_Killer_Whale), the population that inhabits [British Columbia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Columbia) and [Washington state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_state) waters, were placed on the [U.S. Endangered Species list](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Fish_and_Wildlife_Service_list_of_endangered_species_of_mammals_and_birds).

Wild killer whales are not considered a threat to humans,[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-FOOTNOTECarwardine200119-7) but there have been cases of [captive orcas killing or injuring their handlers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale_attacks_on_humans#Captive_orca_attacks) at marine theme parks.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_whale#cite_note-8) Killer whales feature strongly in the mythologies of indigenous cultures, with their reputation ranging from being the souls of humans to merciless killers.

*From: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer\_whale*