

The format of the poster collection is to show one of the current areas of real-world biology, such as "Public Health Practices" or "Controlling Human Behavior" or "Contraception," then follow the visual material with a second poster containing questions for further study. The continuing inquiry questions are insight-promoting and offer promise of good library research assignments.

The academic group that could most benefit from this series is probably students in grades 8-12. Even the information in the enclosed teacher's manual is interesting and full of further references for inquiry. With all these good points going for the posters, it seems unfortunate to have to discuss a major flaw—but here goes.

Though the written information is excellent, the use of green, red, and white as the only colors on any of the posters is disappointing. The cartoon aspect of each poster is appealing—but why not brighten them up with a rainbow of colors? What one must finally conclude is that as an aid to library research, the posters serve a useful purpose; however, as a "visual stimulus" for further inquiry, they don't quite make it. I hope to see a later edition of these in full color. This would

remove all of my reservations concerning their full use as visual aids in my classes.

Dan Huffman  
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## Zoology

### WHALES

by W. Nigel Bonner. 1981. Sterling Publishing Co. (Two Park Ave., New York, NY 10016). 278 p. \$24.95 hardback.

Bonner, not unlike a great whale, lumbers from shallow to deep. Information in fine print alternates between tedious and interesting reviews of the literature and personal accounts gained by years of living at or near whaling stations.

Much of the section on "Cetacea" classification, anatomy, and range should have been reduced to charts, especially since, in some cases, only one member of the species has been observed; but for those who need, or

want, the information is there.

Biologists who like to combine physical principles with biological processes will enjoy the explanation of hydrodynamics, heat loss, and spermacti density, and others will wonder whether shedding skin cells can reduce drag by lubricating the water.

Historians will find the rise and fall of the whaling industry of interest, others will yawn; ecologists may think the plea to "save the whales" is unlikely to reverse current policies.

The chapters on sensory abilities, intelligence, reproduction, and feeding habits will please instructors and students, and will furnish many fascinating and incredible facts about whales and dolphins.

The 80 line drawings serve their purpose well enough, and the 14 full-color photographs are not unique, but good. The book has an extensive bibliography and is part of the Blandford Mammal Series.

Some of *Whales* is for anybody, little is for everybody. It would be a useful addition to high school and college libraries.

Dorothy Henley  
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