

## Raincoast Field School @ home: “Whale Migration” Raincoast Challenge (4-7) The Blubber Glove Activity

*After viewing our online lesson and learning all about grey whales, their feeding habits, and their annual migration, try out these fun activities to further improve your learning!*

### Challenge #1: Gather your materials

Materials List:

- A big spoon
- Shortening
- A couple of ziplock bags (have to be big enough to put your hand inside)
- Some strong tape
- A bowl of ice with cold water in it (aka Pacific Ocean)



### Challenge #2: Organization

Fill a bowl or bucket half full with ice and cold water. This ice bath is a great representation of the near-freezing waters of the polar regions, like the Bering Sea, where the Grey Whales spend the summer feeding in the nutrient-rich waters!

Since you aren't a real Grey Whale, we need to give you some blubber! Put a few scoops of shortening into your ziplock bag.



your hand inside a second ziplock bag of the same size and put it into the bag filled with shortening! Spread the shortening all around your inner, bagged hand so that it is covered on all sides.

Fold the top of the inner ziplock bag over the top of the outer ziplock bag, keeping the shortening between the two. Use your super strong tape (duct tape) to fold over the two bags so that the shortening doesn't escape.



### Challenge #3: Testing your blubber glove



Now you have a blubber-filled glove! Test out the frigid waters of the bucket or bowl you filled earlier with your free hand... cold, hey?!! Now test out the water with your blubber glove hand. Your hand doesn't get cold in the water!

Now you can see why whales need lots of blubber insulation, and why migrating to the feeding grounds in the arctic is necessary! Since baby grey whales don't have much body fat when they are born, the grey whales make the annual migration down to Mexico so that they can have their calves down in warm waters, where blubber isn't as much of a necessity! The calves fatten up quickly from their mothers' milk, so they will have enough blubber to make the trip up to Alaska in just a few months after being born!

Have fun making your own blubber glove!