

Kids Guide to the Pacific Northwest Orca



Resident

There are two resident communities known as the Southern and Northern residents. These two communities never mix with each other.

Resident orca live close to the coastline in large groups known as pods. The oldest female in the group leads the pod and she stays with her family for her entire life. She can live 80 – 90 years or more.

Resident orca are very vocal and often communicate to each other whilst hunting for their favourite food, salmon. These orca only eat fish.

Southern resident orca are endangered as there are only 85 individuals.



Photo: Resident orca / Sam Lipman

Transient

These orca live in small family groups, usually consisting of a female and her offspring. They visit coastal waters, close in to shore, but do not live there.

Transient orca eat other marine mammals (whales, dolphins, porpoises and seals). They are very quiet whilst hunting for their food as they don't want their prey to hear them.

Transient orca never mix with resident orca, even though they sometimes pass each other in the water.



Photo: Transient orca / Josh McInnes

Offshore

Offshore orca live in large groups and feed on fish. Little else is known about these orca.

Resident, Transient and Offshore Orca

Learn the differences between the three types of orca found in the Pacific Northwest



Resident	Transient	Offshore

Cut out the orca and place them in the correct columns

