

Hervey Bay Humpback Whale Comprehension

Use the information in the passage to answer the questions below.

In 2019, Hervey Bay, on Australia's east coast, was accredited as the world's first whale heritage site. Every July, the month-long Hervey Bay Whale Festival celebrates the arrival of the whales and promote their conservation.

Between July and November, more than 25,000 Humpback Whales travel the "humpback highway" down the east coast of Australia to their feeding grounds in Antarctica. Hervey Bay is the most northerly point in their migration. Each year more than 8,000 individuals use the calm, protected waters to rest, socialize, and nurse their newborn calves before heading south. Due to the prevalence of nursing mothers, females outnumber males three to one in the bay.

The first group to arrive, usually from mid-July to the end of August, are young whales and mature females who are either resting or newly pregnant. Mature lactating females with newborn calves arrive from August to September. Adult males arrive somewhere in between.

1. When do whales arrive in Hervey Bay?

2. When do they leave Hervey Bay?

3. How long do the whales stay?

4. How many whales arrive each year?

5. If there were 100 male whales how many females would there be?

6. Why do female whales with calves take longer to arrive?

Use comprehension strategies to build literal and inferred meaning.

