



# Whale Watching and Preservation of the Environment in Central Baja California, Mexico

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## Suggested Learning Objectives

- Examine the role of the whale watching industry in local economic development in Baja California.
- Examine how whale watching has impacted marine life, helped to preserve local environments, and promoted sustainable practices.
- Examine the role of physical geography in facilitating the growth of whale watching tourism.
- Examine the effects of industrial development on commercial whaling, and to what extent commercial whaling impacted marine life.

## Suggested Unit Pairing

- **Unit 3:** Cultural Patterns and Processes
- **Unit 4:** Political Patterns and Processes
- **Unit 7:** Industrial and Economic Development Patterns and Processes

## Discussion Questions

- How has the physical geography of the eastern coast of the Pacific Ocean benefitted the whale watching industry?
- How are local, developing economies impacted by different periods in the whale migration cycle?
- How has whale hunting changed along with industrial changes?
- What role, if any, has cultural diffusion played in commercial whaling?
- What role have the government and other agencies played in protecting local marine environments and ensuring sustainable livelihoods?
- How do you think these coastal communities can continue to thrive and develop if they were to limit fishing practices so that the local fish population can return to pre-1980 levels?
- How are local, developing economies impacted by different periods in the whale migration cycle?
- How has the Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve helped to conserve natural resources which were previously being depleted at unprecedented rates?

## Further Reading

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