

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Ocean Giants: The Largest Creatures Beneath the Waves

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Blue whales and lion's mane jellyfish have different adaptations for survival. Blue whales have streamlined bodies for efficient swimming and filter feeding, while lion's mane jellyfish have long tentacles with stinging cells for capturing prey. Both adaptations are suited to their respective environments, with blue whales thriving in the open ocean and lion's mane jellyfish in colder waters.
2. Blue whales play a crucial role in controlling krill populations and are a food source for some marine predators. Lion's mane jellyfish help control smaller marine populations and provide food for sea turtles and birds. Both species contribute to the balance of marine ecosystems.
3. As a marine biologist studying blue whales, I would investigate their migration patterns, breeding behaviors, and the impact of climate change on their feeding grounds. These findings could inform conservation strategies and help protect blue whale populations.
4. Protecting blue whales and lion's mane jellyfish is essential for maintaining the health of our oceans. Blue whales help regulate marine food webs by controlling krill populations, and lion's mane jellyfish contribute to ecosystem balance. Conserving these species ensures the stability of marine ecosystems and the well-being of other marine life.

