

Name _____

The Important Role Whales Play in the Ecosystem

Short Answer Key

1. Baleen whales eat krill and plankton, which helps keep these populations balanced and prevents ecosystem damage.
2. A whale fall provides food for deep-sea creatures like crabs, fish, and worms for many years.
3. Phytoplankton are tiny organisms that produce oxygen and form the base of the ocean's food web.
4. Whale waste contains nutrients like nitrogen and iron, which help phytoplankton grow and support marine life.
5. Protecting whales helps maintain a healthy ocean, which benefits the planet by producing oxygen and reducing carbon dioxide.

