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**Oregon Coast Aquarium  
Odyssey Productions, Inc.**

# GRACEFUL GIANTS: The Gray Whales of the North Pacific

Final Script

**GRACEFUL GIANTS:  
The Gray Whales of the North Pacific**

Fade in:

AN AWE-INSPIRING SEQUENCE OF STUNNING SHOTS THAT SHOW THE WHALES' GRACEFUL BEAUTY.

**MUSIC UP**

1. A gray whale swims past, filling the screen.
2. A blow; the whale rolls underwater, its fluke slowly rises and it goes under.

**NARRATOR:** (voiceover)

SURFACING FROM THE DEEP,  
THEY VENT THEIR POWERFUL  
BREATH ...

3. A more distant shot of a whale raising its fluke, with mountains and a sunset sky in the background.

... RISE ...

AND WITH A SWEEP OF THE  
FLUKE ...

4. A whale glistens as it moves, the sun's rays sparkle into stars off the water; two kayaks are silhouetted in the background.

GONE AGAIN.

5. TITLE SCENE.

a) An extremely close up, slow and gorgeous raising of the whale's fluke as it fills the screen.

**SUPER TITLE: GRACEFUL GIANTS**

**The Gray Whales of the North Pacific**

GRACEFUL GIANTS,

WHOSE PRESENCE INSPIRES

PLEASURE AND AWE

... AS THEY TRAVEL PAST

OUR COASTAL SHORES.

A SEQUENCE OF WHALE SCENES THAT GIVE SOME SENSE OF THE MASS OF THE WHALE.

For example:

7. Underwater: slow and other-worldly-looking shot of a gray whale swimming through sunbeam-streaked water.

8. At the surface, a whale's fin moves to make it look like it's actually swimming.

9. A closeup of the side of a whale.

THE GRAY WHALE MIGHT

LOOK LIKE A FISH,

AND LIVE UNDERWATER

LIKE A FISH ...

... BUT WHALES AREN'T FISH.

THEY'RE MAMMALS,

LIKE HUMANS ...

... AMONG THE LARGEST

MAMMALS ON EARTH.

10. Whale swimming underwater; streaks of sunbeams.

A GRAY WHALE IS 40 FEET

LONG ...

AS LONG AS THREE

ELEPHANTS,

TRUNK TO TAIL.

IT WEIGHS AS MUCH AS

80 POLAR BEARS ...

OVER 70,000 POUNDS.

AND ITS HEART IS THE SIZE

OF A SMALL BABOON:

ABOUT THREE FEET HIGH.

NO WONDER: THE GRAY

WHALE EATS 400 POUNDS

A DAY.

YET ... IT GLIDES GRACEFULLY

THROUGH OCEAN WATERS.

#### A SEQUENCE OF WHALE "TRAVELING" SHOTS

For example:

11. An aerial of three gray whales swimming side by side, looking like long torpedoes.
12. Whales swimming in the open ocean.
13. Whales in Alaska with mountains in the background.

EVERYTHING ABOUT THE

PACIFIC GRAY WHALE

IS GARGANTUAN:  
IT HAS THE LONGEST  
MIGRATION OF ANY  
MAMMAL IN THE WORLD:  
10,000 MILES ROUND TRIP,  
BETWEEN ARCTIC WATERS  
AND BAJA LAGOONS.

DURING THIS LONG TREK,  
GRAY WHALES APPEAR TO  
HAVE A SIMPLE MEANS OF  
NAVIGATION:

THEY FOLLOW ALONG THE  
SHORELINE, ACOUSTICALLY  
GUIDED BY THE SOUND OF  
THE SURF.

FROM DECEMBER THROUGH  
MAY,  
THEY MIGRATE PAST  
THE OREGON COAST.

200 TO 400 GRAY WHALES

REMAIN ALL SUMMER.

BUT IN LATE SPRING,

MOST OF THE WHALES

ARRIVE IN ALASKA'S

POLAR SEAS ...

... WHERE THEY'LL GORGE ON

SHRIMP-LIKE ORGANISMS

CALLED "AMPHIPODS" ...

... ALL SUMMER LONG.

#### 14. General shots of gray whales.

GRAYS ARE BALEEN WHALES.

IN STEAD OF TEETH,

THEY HAVE BALEEN PLATES.

BALEEN'S A SUBSTANCE

MUCH LIKE OUR

FINGERNAILS,

AND THE PLATES,

ABOUT 300 OF THEM ...

HANG LIKE BROOM BRISTLES

FROM THE WHALE'S

UPPER JAW.

15. A whale swimming underwater.

16. Underwater -- a closeup of the mouth, seeming to chew. The whale turns and eats.

GRAYS ARE THE ONLY  
BALEEN WHALES THAT ARE  
BOTTOM-FEEDERS.  
THEY DIVE INTO SHALLOW  
WATERS AND SUCK IN  
MOUTHFULS OF OCEAN  
SEDIMENT ...  
TEEMING WITH ORGANISMS.  
  
THE BALEEN TRAPS THE  
FOOD IN THE WHALE'S  
MOUTH ...  
WHILE IT FORCES OUT  
THE WATER AND SEDIMENTS.

17. Closeup of ghost shrimp and mud in a person's hand.

18. Closer shot of shrimp crawling around in hand.

IN ONE FEEDING SEASON,  
THE NORTH PACIFIC  
POPULATION OF GRAY  
WHALES CONSUMES

NEARLY TWO MILLION TONS  
OF TINY CRUSTACEANS.

19. A whale spouts; mountains in the background.
20. Two whales dive into water side by side.
21. A shot following closely behind a whale; it slowly goes under.

... AND THEN ...

THEY WON'T EAT AGAIN  
FOR ANOTHER FOUR TO SIX  
MONTHS.

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*To see the complete script, contact me at [matrazzo@msn.com](mailto:matrazzo@msn.com)*

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