

# What is a Calf?

Name .....

Date .....

## Student Response

My score for this book is ...../10.

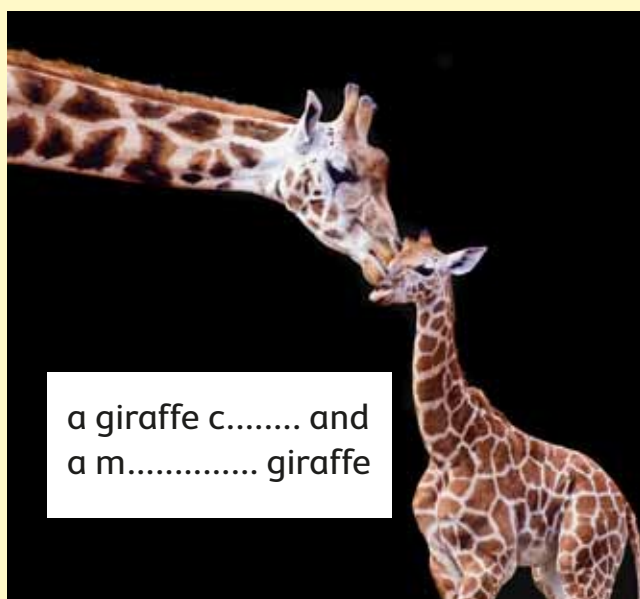
It was a ..... book.

### 1. Write about a calf.

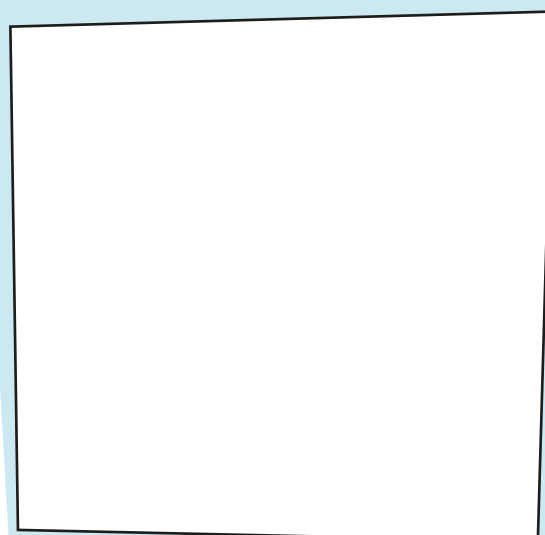
A calf is a baby animal.

A b..... whale is called  
a c.....

A baby dolphin is c.....  
a calf, too.



### 2. Draw an elephant calf.



### 3. Read, cover, spell!

Read	Cover	Spell
baby	 baby	.....
is	 is	.....
called	 called	.....
has	 has	.....
of	 of	.....
mother	 mother	.....
the	 the	.....
too	 too	.....
when	 when	.....



You've finished!  
What will you read next?

Grusilda



Inside Front Cover: Glossary

Title Page: Topic Introduction

## Page 2

### Description – Introduction

The introduction defines a calf.

### Language Features

Repeated noun: baby

Words starting with “c”: cow, called, calf

### Comprehension – Inference, Connection

Which two words explain the difference between human babies? (boy, girl)

### Literature, Biological Sciences and Mathematics Activity

Discuss the similarities and differences between the mother cow and her calf in the image. Students draw them side by side.



## Pages 4 and 5

### Description – Visual Characteristics of Calves

Images describe an elephant calf and a rhinoceros calf.

### Language Features

Revise words starting with “c”: cow, called, calf

Repeated nouns: mother, elephant, rhinoceros

### Comprehension – Visual, Inference

Compare the mother and calf for both animals? What similarities can you see? Compare the elephant and the rhinoceros. What are their similarities? What might they both eat?

### Literature and Biological Sciences Activity

Draw a mother and her calf for either animal focusing on shape, size and skin texture.

# Teaching Ideas

## What is a Calf?

**Level 5 Non-Fiction – Description** (introductory)

**Curriculum Topics:** English; Biological Sciences.

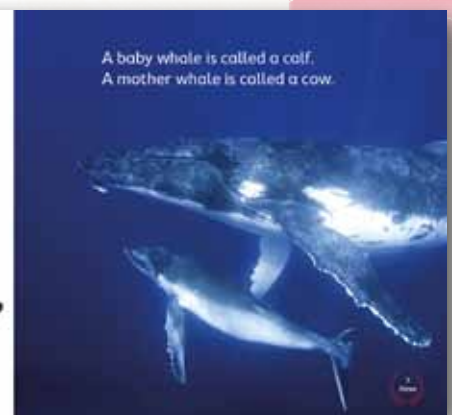
**Book Synopsis:** an introductory description with clear images showing cows with their calves, e.g. whales, elephants and giraffes.

**Non-High Frequency Words:** Most words are repeated and supported by clear images.

**High Frequency Words:** *What is a Calf?* has a high percentage of high frequency words.



When a cow has a baby, the baby is called a calf.



A baby whale is called a calf. A mother whale is called a cow.

## Page 3

### Description – Visual Characteristics of a Calf

Image describes a whale calf.

### Language Features

Revise words starting with “c”: cow, called, calf

Repeated noun and verb: whale, called

### Comprehension – Importance, Visual

What might be some of the most important jobs that this mother whale must do for its calf?

### Literature and Biological Sciences and Mathematics Activity

Discuss the shape of the whale's body parts. Predict the shape of the mother whale's back parts not shown in the image. Students draw a mother and baby whale.



A baby elephant is called a calf. A mother elephant is called a cow.



A baby rhinoceros is called a calf. A mother rhinoceros is called a cow.





Those images describe two more interesting calves and their mothers. Are they bigger than me?



A baby giraffe is called a calf.  
A mother giraffe is called a cow.



A baby hippopotamus  
is called a calf.  
A mother hippopotamus  
is called a cow.

### Description – Visual Characteristics of Calves

Images describe a giraffe calf and a hippopotamus calf.

### Language Features

Revise words starting with “c”: cow, called, calf

Repeated nouns: giraffe, hippopotamus

### Comprehension – Visual, Inference

What do you think the mother giraffe is doing? Why? A baby hippopotamus can rest on their mother’s back in the water, too. Why do think a calf will do that?

### Literature and Health and Safety Activity

Draw a baby hippopotamus resting on its mother’s back in the water – to keep safe.

The description ends. I love this ending because there are even more calves to look at. I didn’t know there were so many different kinds of calves!



a bison and its calf



a camel and its calf

Many other animals have calves, too. Here are just three of them.



a dolphin and its calf



## Page 8

### Description – Conclusion

Three more species of calf conclude this introductory description.

### Language Features

Captions: e.g. a dolphin and its calf

Singular and plural: calf, calves

### Comprehension – Visual, Inference

What do you notice about every calf in every image?

In the wild, how long might they stay that close to their mother?

### Literature and Biological Sciences Activity

Draw a dolphin and its calf. Write a caption describing the image, e.g. A mother dolphin and its calf.



## BIGGEST CALF

### Blue Whale Calf

A blue whale calf can weigh up to three tonnes when born. It can be up to eight metres in length and gain up to 90 kilograms in weight every day for the first year of its life.

## Student Activity

Student activity sheet  
(free download/PDF)



## Group Activity

### Chart: “Calves and Cows”

The students choose to illustrate one pair of cow and calf, and write a caption. Place their illustrations in land or sea categories.



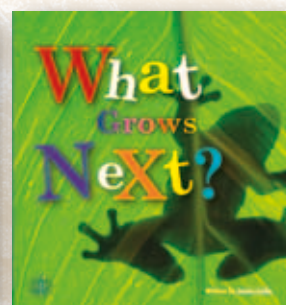
Check out these other books for projects about **baby animals**.



**Kittens**  
Level 2: Non-Fiction  
Description



**The Fly and the Tadpole**  
Level 12: Fiction  
Narrative



**What Grows Next?**  
Level 12: Non-Fiction  
Description/Report



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