

A packrafter had a lucky escape earlier this week after ending up in the jaws of a whale. Adrian Simancas, 23, was paddling through the icy waters of Patagonia, Chile, when an enormous humpback whale emerged from the deep and engulfed him and his inflatable raft in its mouth. Luckily for Mr Simancas, the esophagus of a humpback can only stretch to a diameter of 40 cm, and is ordinarily the width of a human fist. No sooner had Simancas been gulped up by the humpback than he was spat out into the choppy Southern Ocean. Simancas' father captured the whole horrifying incident on video. He said: "Suddenly, I saw Adrian emerge from the waves, along with what looked like a gigantic animal."

Mr Simancas recounted his terrifying ordeal to journalists back on dry land. He said: "I felt something hit me from behind. All this happened in a second. Something dark blue or white enveloped me, and a slimy texture brushed my face." He continued: "I started to sink, and I just closed my eyes, expecting an impact I was surrounded by water. I realized that I was in something's mouth and I had been eaten." He added: "I felt like I was in a whirlpool spinning around." The Guardian newspaper reported: "For a few fleeting moments, Adrian's fate was in the jaws of the 40-ton mammal." Adrian said his close encounter would not deter him from future rafting outings.

CETACEANS: Humpback whales belong to a family of marine creatures called cetaceans. What do you know and want to know about these cetaceans?

	What I Know	What I Want to Know
Humpback whales		
Blue whales		
Orca		
Belugas		
Common dolphin		
Narwhals		

Paragraph 1

1	paddling	a.	The tube in your body that carries food from your mouth to your stomach.
2	emerged	b.	Very, very big.
3	engulfed	c.	Moving a small boat or your hands and feet in water to go forward.
4	inflatable	d.	Came out from somewhere.
5	esophagus	e.	Something that can be filled with air.
6	choppy	f.	Rough and not smooth, often used to describe water.
7	gigantic	g.	Fully covered or surrounded by something.

Paragraph 2

8	recounted	h.	To stop or discourage someone from doing something.
9	ordeal	i.	Lasting for a very short time.
10	enveloped	j.	Wet, sticky, and slippery.
11	slimy	k.	Told a story or explained something that happened.
12	fleeting	l.	Short trips for fun or relaxation.
13	deter	m.	A very difficult or painful experience.
14	outings	n.	Completely covered or wrapped in something.