Whaling: Should it continue in the 21st Century?

**Introduction**: Most countries in the world have agreed to stop whaling. They recognise whales as intelligent creatures who were in danger of extinction by human actions.

Whalers hunted whales in the 18th and 19th centuries as they provided many materials to benefit humans: oil was used in lamps and making cosmetics; bones were used to make corsets and handles and baleen used for umbrella spokes and hat rims. Then petroleum was discovered which has enabled many products to be made of plastic and other materials.

**Argument for whaling:** Today only a few countries still hunt whales. These include Japan, Norway and Iceland. These countries hunt whales for scientific and commercial reasons. They have always hunted whales and believe it is a traditional right they want to uphold. They make products from the whale blubber such as health products, and also eat the whale meat. They say their countries have always eaten whale meat and it is the same as eating fish from the sea or beef and mutton from a farm.

**Argument Against:** However, other countries feel there are enough substitutes for whale products and whaling is unnecessary and cruel in the modern world. Whales live in family groups and hunting can devastate the future of different species. Whales are intelligent social creatures, which have a right to live in the wild. We value biodiversity and animal welfare in the UK.

**Conclusion:** It seems an outdated practice for our modern world to continue with whaling. I would like to see the end of commercial whaling and let these peaceful giants actually live in peace. However, whaling might be necessary on a sustainable, small scale as a source of food for remote communities who want to preserve traditional ways of life.