

Proposal for Emoji: ORCA





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Date: February 20, 2019

1. IDENTIFICATION:

- CLDR short name: orca
- CLDR keywords: killer whale

2. IMAGES:

	18x18	72x72
BW		
Color		

License: [The Nature Box](#) (GFDL/CC-BY-SA)

3. SORT LOCATION:

Category: [animal-marine](#)

Location: after 🐳 WHALE

4. REFERENCE EMOJI:

- 🐘 ELEPHANT

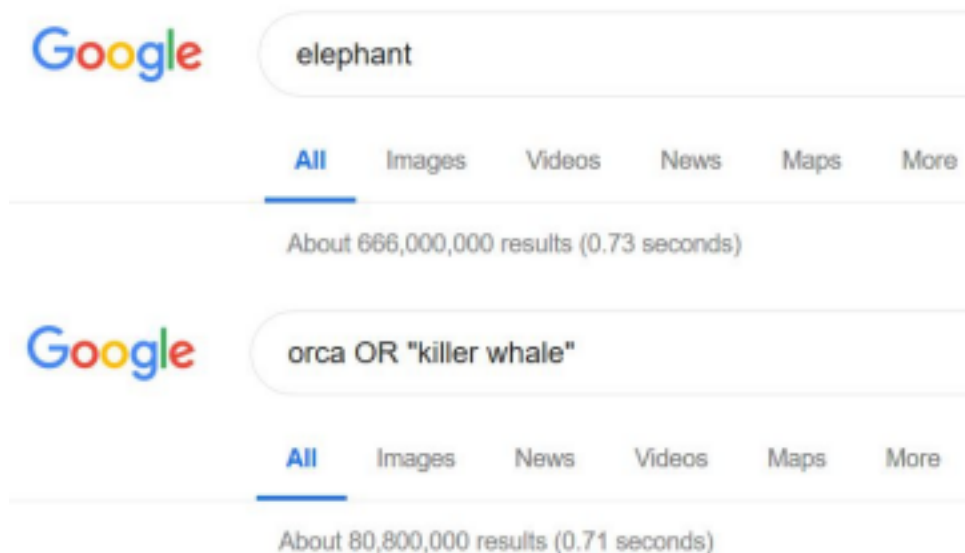
5. SELECTION FACTORS FOR INCLUSION:

Compatibility:

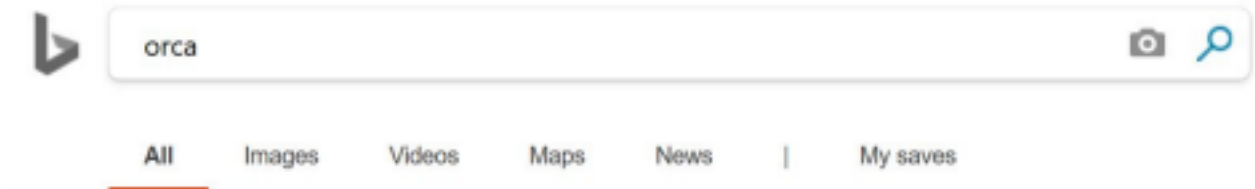
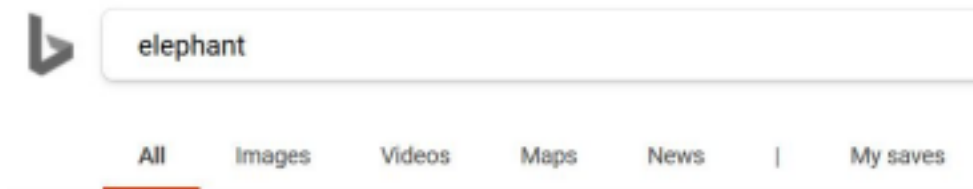
It is a completely new emoji for inclusion in Unicode and other systems.

Expected usage level:

The popularity of the term “elephant” has been compared to the results of “orca”, using the term “killer whale” as synonymous, as it is the term often used in the United States of America:



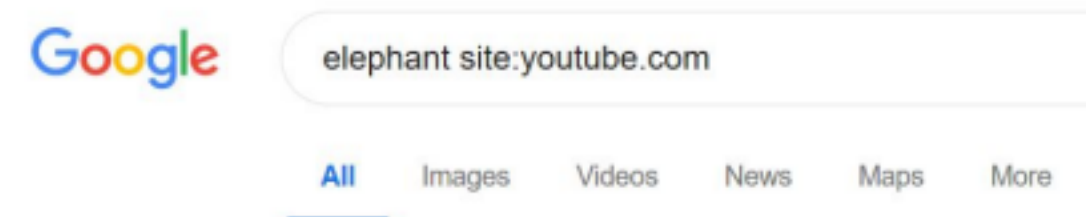
On Bing the term “orca” is nearly as popular as “elephant”. In this search engine, due to the lack of a properly working “OR” operator, the term “killer whale” has been omitted.



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Results on YouTube show the same trend as in the rest of Google, with “orca” being less popular than “elephant”.



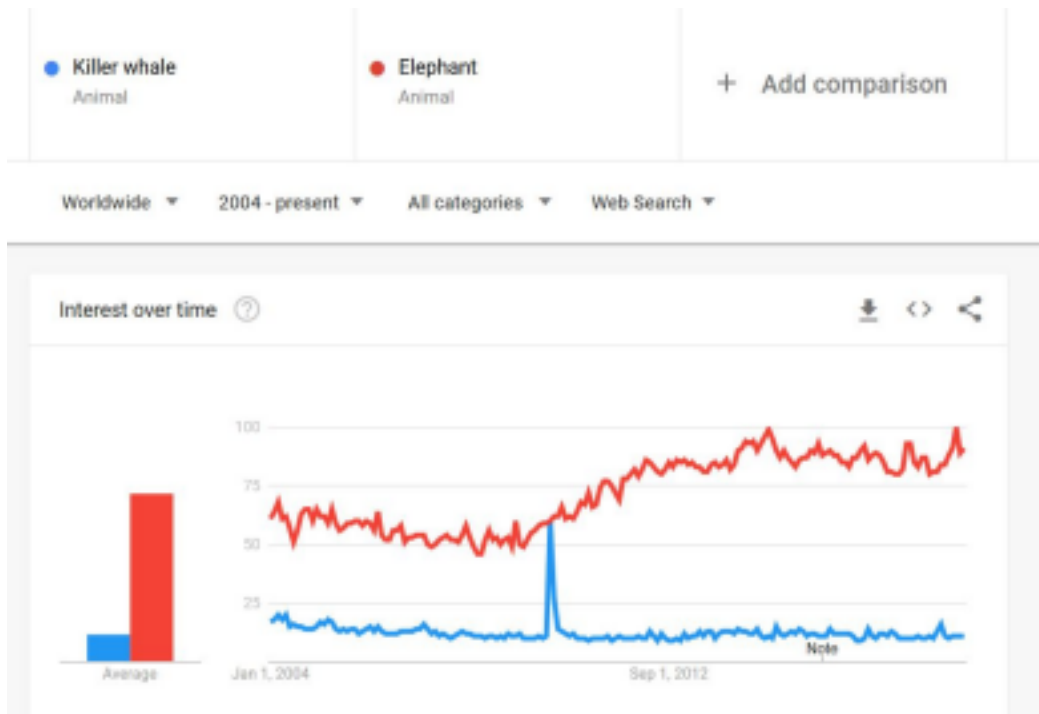
About 83,600,000 results (0.62 seconds)



About 1,110,000 results (0.56 seconds)

Google Trends shows that the popularity worldwide of the orca is less than that of the elephant.

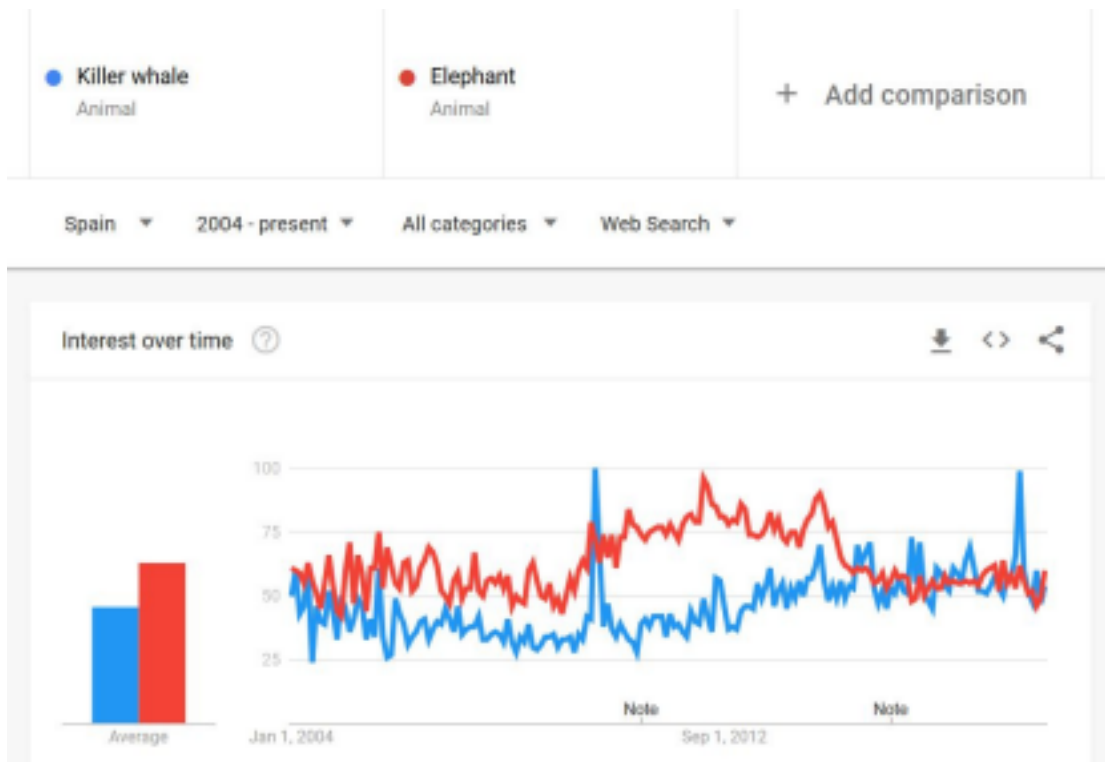
Please note that although it says “killer whale” instead of “orca”, it has been selected as “animal” instead of “search term” to get correct results regardless of naming or language.

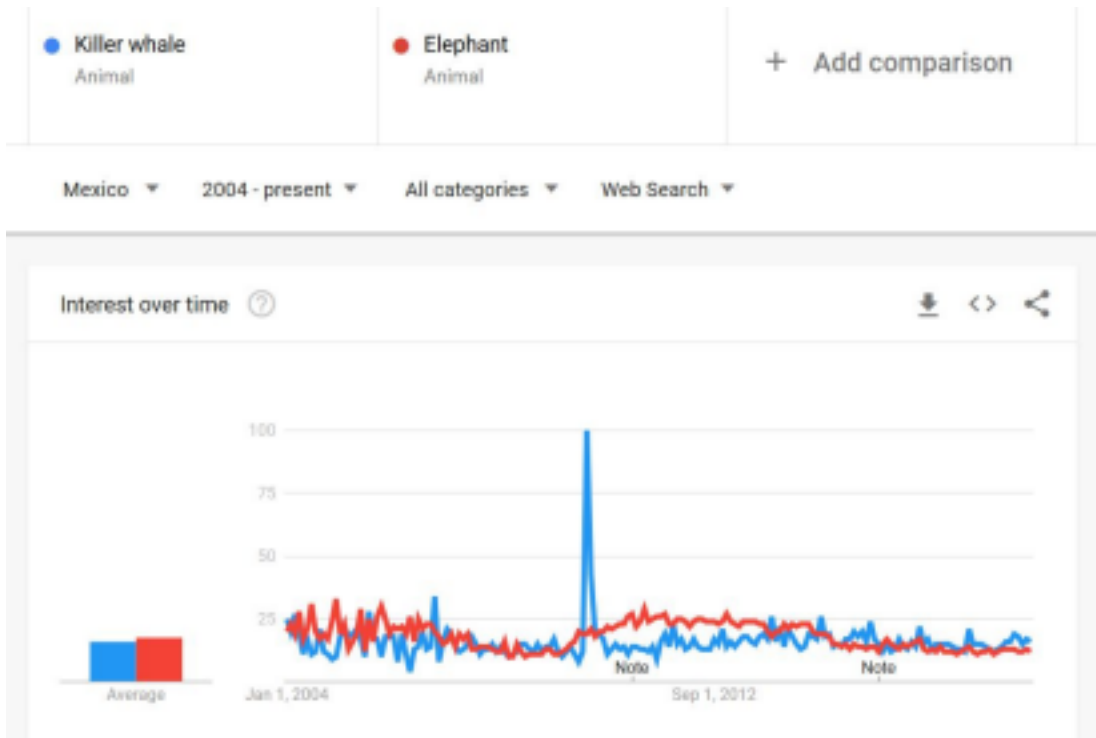


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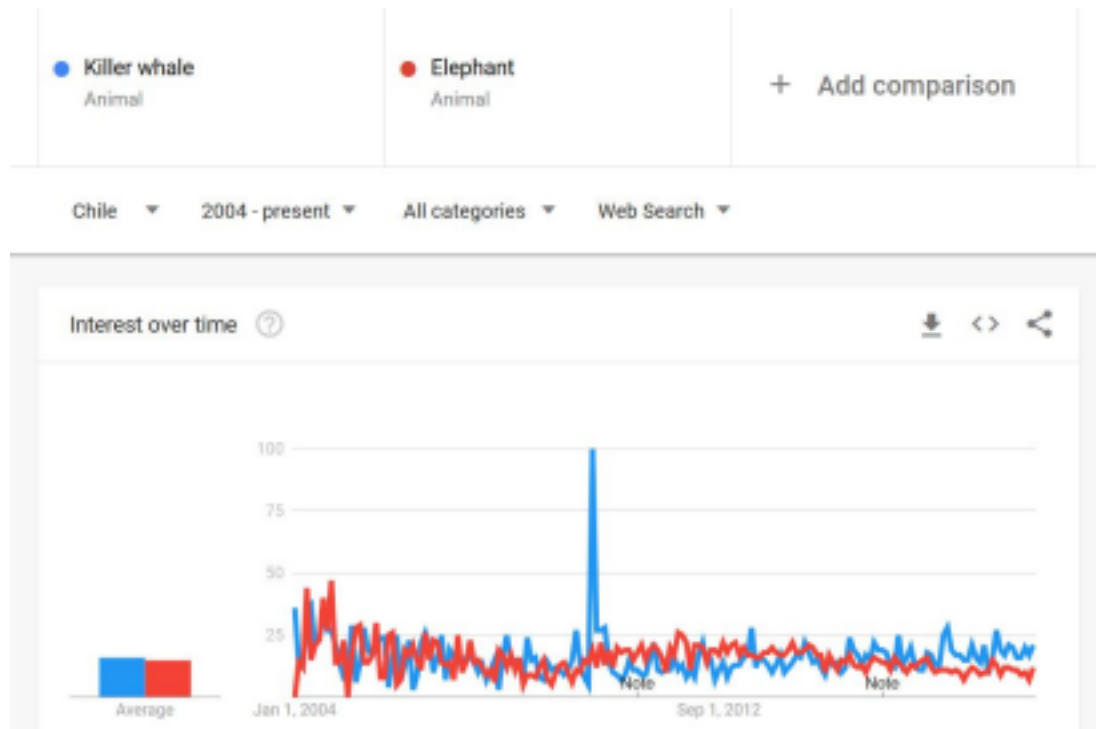
However, the interest seems to be roughly the same for both animals in the Hispanic community (to which the author of this document belongs), specially for South America for which orca sometimes surpasses the popularity of the elephant:

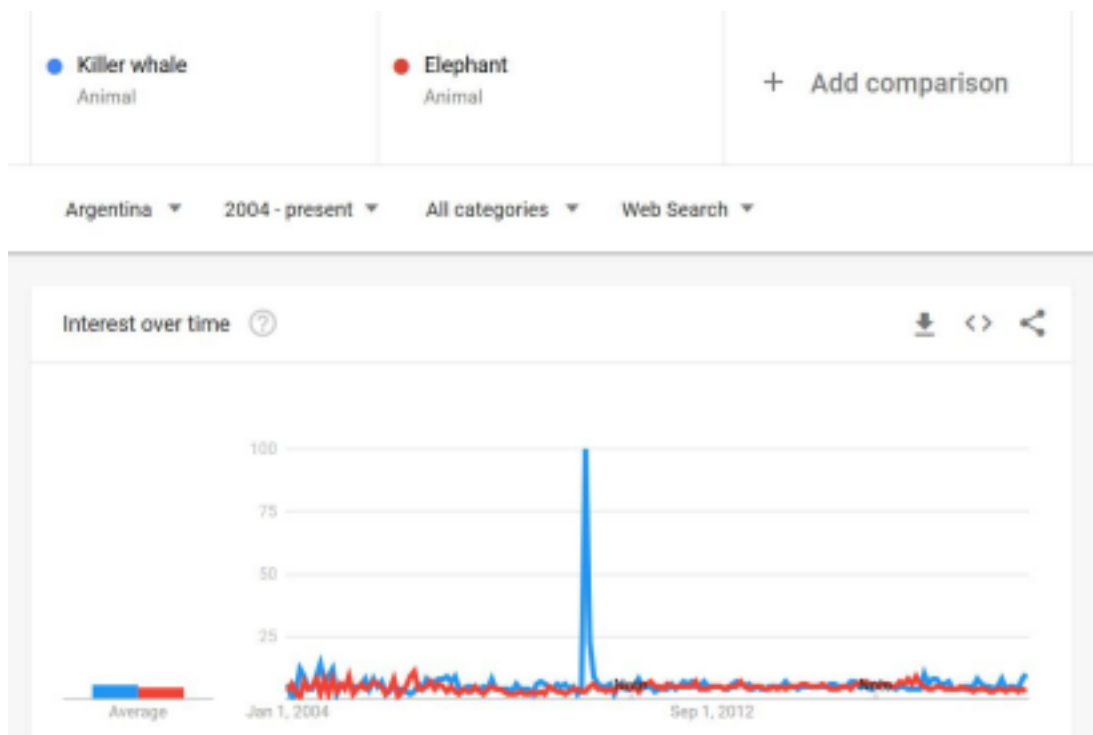




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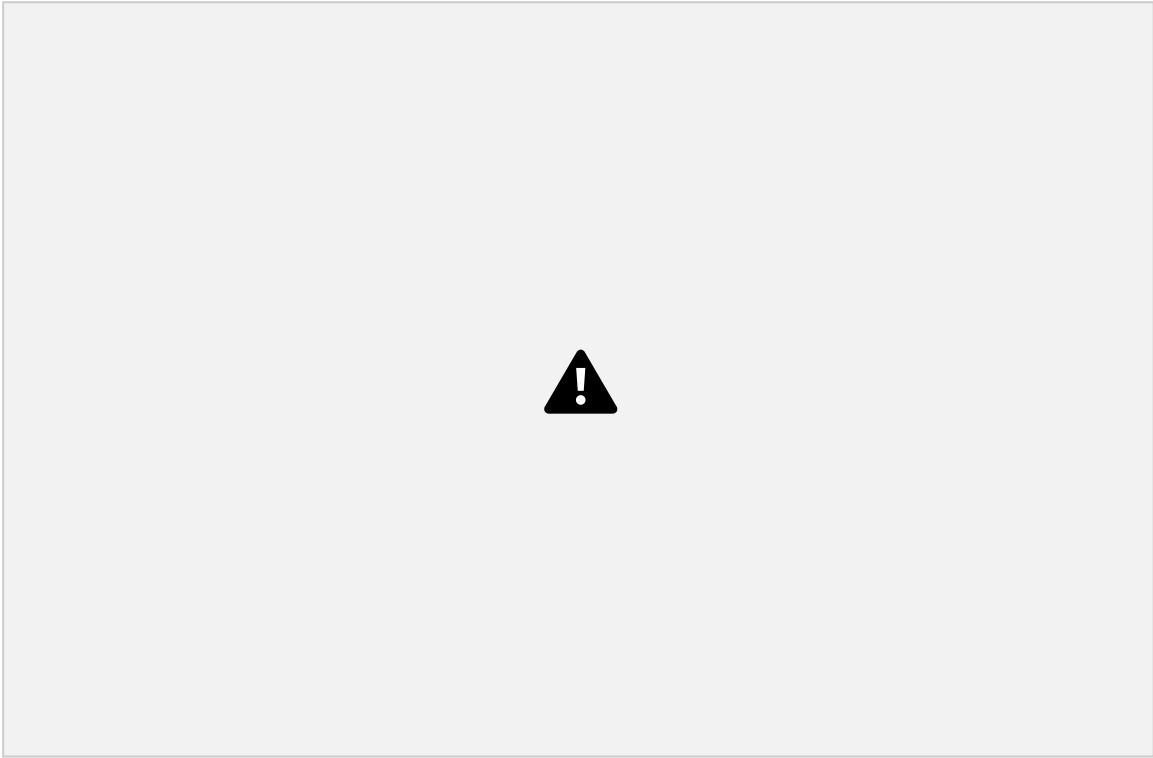
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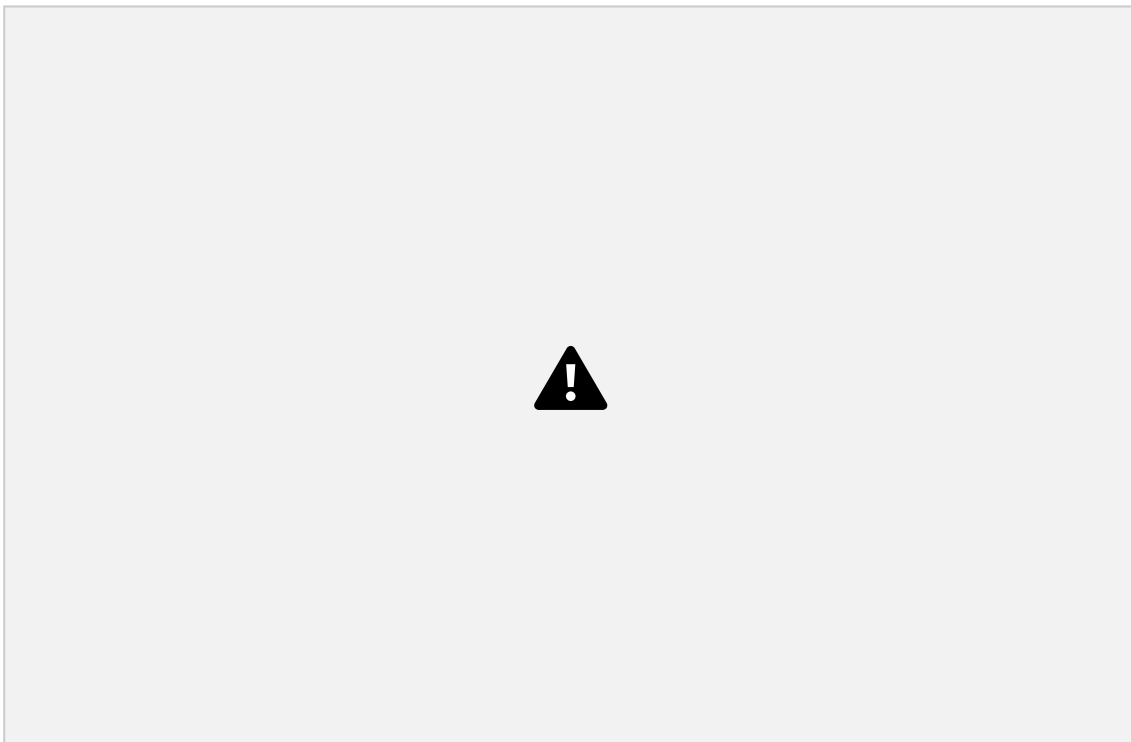


Please note that although the UI and terms are in English, they have been checked to match the numbers given by Spanish version of Google Trends.

Using Google Trends we can also see that in terms of popularity amongst whales, the orca (although not really scientifically part of the whales) is the most popular species worldwide, with a steady interest:



Regarding images on Google Trends, we can see the same trend as for general results, with orca being less popular than elephant:



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However, the trend of orcas being searched more often than elephants in Hispanic countries also affects images:



Wikipedia shows that the popularity in term of pageviews is roughly the same for orcas and elephants, with many peaks for the former.

**Multiple usages:**

- Literal reference to the animal.
- Reference to marine wild life.
- Reference to endangered wild life.
- Reference to marine mammal parks, for which orcas are usually its main attraction.
- Cultural references, such as Willy from Free Willy.

Use in sequences:

The character is a singular emoji, can be used by itself and does not need any modifiers.

Breaking new ground:

Yes. The orca is a new animal species that cannot be represented by any sequence of currently existing emojis.

Image distinctiveness:

Yes. Its shape and its characteristic black and white pattern are clearly distinctive.

Completeness:

N/A.

Frequently requested:

N/A.

6. SELECTION FACTORS FOR EXCLUSION:

Overly specific:

The proposed emoji is easily recognizable thanks to its black and white pattern. It is no more specific than other animals that has been already included as emoji, such as 🐡 BLOWFISH, 🏏 CRICKET or 🦢 SWAN.

Open ended:

The orca is an specific species of animals, and not a set of symbol.

Already representable:

The orca cannot be represented with currently existing emojis.

The closest representation would be a black circle (●), followed by a white circle (○) and the whale emoji (🐳), to indicate that is a whale with a black and white pattern.

This is however pretty long, not scientifically correct (albeit popularly known as “killer whales”, they’re a species of dolphins) and not easily understandable given the orcas are considerably physically different to the rest of whales.

Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, specific buildings, deities:

The animal emoji does not represent any particular brand or part of any brand, nor any UI icon, signage, person, building or deity.

Transient:

Orcas are not a transient symbol, as they have been on planet Earth for about 11 million of years.

The only risk of orca becoming a unused symbol is in case of extinction, which is possible due to sea pollution (according to the IUCN Red List), although unlikely.

Faulty comparison:

The submission is due to its popularity and recognizeable pattern, and due to its own merits according to its inclusion and exclusion patterns; and not due to inclusion of any other symbol.

Exact images:

The animal may be represented by different styles and images, and thus does not require any exact image.