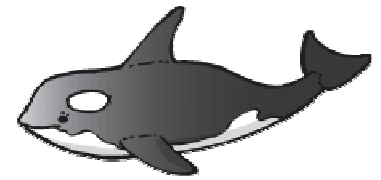


Name: _____



Before You Read

1. I'M A WHALE: You are a whale. Talk to the other "whales" in your group about ocean life.

Questions you can discuss: What do you do all day? Do you have any shark friends? What are your plans for the weekend? Have you heard about the humans killing whales for scientific research?

2. GREENPEACE: What protests by Greenpeace do you support most? In pairs / groups, rank the following in order of importance to you (rank at least the 3 most important)

• Banning whaling

• Stopping climate change

• Protecting forests

• Ending nuclear weapons

• banning toxic chemicals

• Protecting Earth's oceans



3. TWO-MINUTE WHALE DEBATES: Face your group members and have the following 2-minute debates. Students A strongly believe in the first argument, students B the second. Change pairs often.

a. Whale meat is delicious. vs. It's wrong to eat whale meat.

b. Whaling should be banned. vs. Whaling for scientific research is OK.

c. Whales should not be eaten. They are intelligent. vs. So are cows and pigs.

d. Whaling is cruel. vs. So are boxing and blood sports.

e. Whaling is the same as fishing. vs. Whales are not fish.

While You Read

Read the article and state whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

a. A whaling protester fired a harpoon at another whaling ship.

b. An anti-whaling activist started drinking because of stress.

c. A whale killed a Greenpeace activist in Antarctica.

d. Greenpeace is playing a cat and mouse game with Japanese whalers.

e. Greenpeace is rethinking its human shield-style of protests.

f. Greenpeace said the whalers are taking things to a new level.

g. The whalers said Greenpeace is not taking any serious risks.

h. Greenpeace said the hunting is commercial whaling in disguise.

T / F

T / F

T / F

T / F

T / F

T / F

T / F

T / F



Whaling protester in near-miss harpooning

A harpoon fired by a Japanese whaling ship sailed a meter above a Greenpeace dinghy in the Antarctic yesterday. The harpoon's rope hit the small boat and an activist fell into the icy sea. Joe Constantine was unhurt but was angry that the harpoon had gone so close to his boat. The whalers were chasing a whale, which they eventually killed. Constantine said the whalers were taking greater risks because of Greenpeace's success in making hunting more difficult.

The near miss has led Greenpeace to rethink its human shield-style protest against Japanese whalers. Greenpeace spokesman Shane Rattenbury believes the whalers are becoming more and more angry with the protesters. He said: "We are very worried about this....The harpooners are certainly starting to take shots that perhaps a week or two weeks ago they would not have taken." The whalers say Greenpeace is taking dangerous risks to get media attention. Mr. Rattenbury accused the whale hunt of being "commercial whaling in disguise".

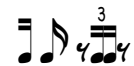
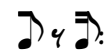


After You Read

ROLE PLAY:

Your teacher is going to give you a role card.

- Read the role presented to you
- Introduce yourself to the other role players in your group.
- Explain what you think about whale hunting
- Discuss your ideas with the other group members.



Role A – Japanese whaler

You live in a very small coastal village. Your community has whaled for centuries. Without whaling the whole community would not earn money. You hate Greenpeace. They don't understand the oceans and don't respect your culture.

Role B – Joe Constantine

As a Greenpeace activist, you believe whaling is totally wrong. Whales are endangered and very intelligent mammals. There is no scientific reason to kill whales. You think whaling is cruel. You want to sue the whalers for putting your life in danger.

Role C – Whale Steak Inc. President

Your company sells whale meat. You believe whales are an important source of food. You believe that when the world's forests have disappeared, whales will become an important source of food. You think Japan's scientific research is essential to ensure the survival of whales. You hate Greenpeace.

Role D – Jo the whale

You are a whale with a family. You're trying to live your life in the ocean and avoid the killer humans with their deadly harpoons. You hate the sounds of pain other whales make for many hours as they die. They die very slowly after being harpooned. You think humans should not eat whale meat .

The Poem

The Song of the Whale

Heaving mountains in the sea,
Whale, I heard you
Grieving.

Great whale, crying for your life,
Crying for your kind, I know
How we would use
Your dying.

Lipstick for our painted faces
Polish for our shoes.

Tumbling mountain in the sea,
Whale, I hear you
Calling

Bird-high notes, soaring:
At their edge a tiny drum
Like a heartbeat

We would make you
Dumb

In the forest of the sea,
Whale, I heard you
Singing

Singing to your kind
We'll never let you be
Instead of life we choose

Lipstick for our painted faces,
Polish for our shoes.

Heidi Barnard