

NEWS BREAK

Sunday's News Break selects an article from Sunday, October 11, 2015 of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected story and answer the attached study questions.

Does Sea World San Diego have a future without Shamu? (Main, page A5)

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Before you read this article, as a class discuss what you think this story will be about.

Write down any keywords from the title, which you used to make your predictions.

2. **Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions below.**

- A. ban
- B. barrage
- C. breeding
- D. captive
- E. criticism
- F. demise
- G. disseminated
- H. exemption
- I. extinction
- J. implemented
- K. jurisdiction
- L. legality
- M. plummeting
- N. prohibited
- O. reproduction
- P. restrictions

- 1. to say that (something) is not allowed
- 2. the act of expressing disapproval and of noting the problems or faults of a person or thing; a remark or comment that expresses disapproval of someone or something
- 3. the power or right to make judgments about the law, to arrest and punish criminals, etc.
- 4. to keep and take care of animals or plants in order to produce more animals or plants of a particular kind
- 5. freedom from being required to do something that others are required to do
- 6. a law or rule that limits or controls something
- 7. to forbid (someone) from doing or being part of something
- 8. to begin to do or use (something, such as a plan)
- 9. the end of something that is thought of as being like a death
- 10. to fall or drop suddenly in amount, value, etc
- 11. captured and kept in a prison, cage, etc.
- 12. the process that produces babies, young animals, or new plants
- 13. the state or situation that results when something (such as a plant or animal species) has died out completely
- 14. to cause (something, such as information) to go to many people
- 15. allowed by the law or by the rules in a game
- 16. a great amount of something that comes quickly and continuously

Comprehension

1. The California Coastal Commission made the decision last week to ban what at SeaWorld in San Diego?
2. SeaWorld has been trying to fend off criticism highlighted in the 2013 documentary "Blackfish" accusing the marine park of neglecting and abusing its killer whales. What has the park seen an 11 percent drop in since then?
3. How did SeaWorld plan to win back public support after the criticism it received from the documentary?
4. The California Coastal Commission approved SeaWorld's plan but placed restrictions on the park's breeding program. Grey Stafford, director of conservation at the World Wildlife Zoo and Aquarium in Phoenix said that the California Coastal Commission is asking SeaWorld to manage the killer whales to _____ in the state of California. **(Fill in the blank)**
5. The restrictions on the park's breeding program would apply to all 11 SeaWorld Entertainment parks across the country – **true or false?**
6. In Vancouver, B.C., a parks board voted last year to halt the breeding program at the Vancouver Aquarium, what happened to that plan?
7. The commission also prohibited the sale or transfer of captive orcas. The amendment does provide a potential _____ for certain whales caught in the wild. **(Fill in the blank)**
8. What did Bill Hurly, past president of the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks & Aquariums, say he expects that SeaWorld will challenge, regarding the California Coastal Commission decision?
9. Aquarium and zoo officials have blasted the Coastal Commissions restrictions because they say breeding programs help improve their understanding of what?
10. Legal experts said the Coastal Commission may not even have jurisdiction over the SeaWorld decision. Whom did they say final authority lies with?

Additional Activities

1. After reading this article do you think the California Coastal Commission's plan is a good one? Do you think the restrictions placed on the park if implemented would mean the demise of SeaWorld – why or why not?
2. How do you feel about the criticism SeaWorld received accusing the marine park of neglecting and abusing its killer whales? Do you think it was justified? Do you think the killer whales should be held in captivity? Does the benefit of what biologists have learned from breeding programs outweigh keeping the killer whales in captivity – why or why not?

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Answer Key to Vocabulary

- A. 7
- B. 16
- C. 4
- D. 11
- E. 2
- F. 9
- G. 14
- H. 5
- I. 13
- J. 8
- K. 3
- L. 15
- M. 10
- N. 1
- O. 12
- P. 6

Answer Key to Comprehension Questions

1. They made the decision to ban captive breeding of the park's killer whales as a condition of building a much larger holding facility.
2. They have seen an 11 percent drop in attendance.
3. It planned to win back public support by building a much larger living environment for its killer whales.
4. extinction
5. False – it only applies to the California park.
6. exemption
7. It was never implemented.
8. The legality of the decision.
9. Breeding programs help improve their understanding of the behavior and habits of killer whales.
10. They say final authority lies with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

