

NEWS BREAK

Wednesday's News Break selects an article from Tuesday, November 10 of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. **Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

Sea World to end San Diego orca shows (Business, page A9).

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Look at the title of this article and the photo accompanying the article. What is the orca doing in the picture? Why do you think Sea World made the decision to end orca shows in San Diego?

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

- A. activist
- B. captivity
- C. chronicles
- D. conservation
- E. documentary
- F. focus
- G. gimmick
- H. iconic
- I. inevitable
- J. perceive
- K. phase out
- L. revenue
- M. spectators
- N. tawdry

- 1. a description of events in the order that they happened
- 2. morally low or bad
- 3. a method or trick that is used to get people's attention or to sell something
- 4. the state of being kept in a place (such as a prison or a cage) and not being able to leave or be free
- 5. money that is made by or paid to a business or an organization
- 6. sure to happen
- 7. a movie or television program that tells the facts about actual people and events
- 8. the act of stopping something gradually over a period of time in a planned series of steps or phases
- 9. a widely known symbol
- 10. the protection of animals, plants, and natural resources
- 11. to think of (someone or something) as being something stated
- 12. a person who watches an event, show, game, activity, etc., often as part of an audience

13. a person who uses or supports strong actions (such as public protests) to help make changes in politics or society
14. a subject that is being discussed or studied; the subject on which people's attention is focused

Comprehension

1. What reason did SeaWorld's top executive give for why it will end orca shows at its San Diego park?
2. CEO Joel Manby told investors the park will offer a different kind of orca experience. What will the new orca experience be focused on?
3. When will the new orca experience start at the SeaWorld San Diego Park?
4. Manby also told investors that California customers want to see less theatrical production, so the new attraction will have a strong _____ message. **(Fill in the blank)**
5. Animal-welfare activists called the move a making gimmick and want the company to phase out what?
6. Attendance has dropped the most at what SeaWorld location? **(Multiple Choice)**
 - a) Orlando
 - b) San Antonio
 - c) San Diego
 - d) None of the above
7. What has SeaWorld company seen drop since the 2013 release of the documentary "Blackfish"?
8. The documentary "Blackfish" examined how orcas respond to _____. **(Fill in the blank)**
9. The documentary "Blackfish" chronicles the case of Tilikum, a killer whale that caused what?
10. SeaWorld trainers no longer go into the water during shows or while training the whales - **true or false?**

Additional Activities

1. Have the class break into small groups. Then using the search function of the e-Edition look for articles about the resident orcas in Puget Sound. Students can also search the archives on seattletimes.com. Have students find as much information about the orcas from the article(s) as they can. Then have students do additional research to find out more about the orcas at SeaWorld and how they live. Finally, have students discuss based on the article(s) and information they read, if they think that orcas in the wild are better off than the orcas at SeaWorld and why?
2. Have students watch the following video of an orca pod at play on NBC News. <http://www.nbcnews.com/video/nbc-news-channel/51674595#51674595>

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Answer Key to Vocabulary

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

Answer Key to Comprehension Questions

1. Visitors to the attraction made it clear they prefer seeing orcas act naturally rather than doing tricks.
2. The new orca experience will focus on the animal's natural setting and behaviors.
3. It will start in 2017.
4. conservation
5. They want the company to phase out holding any whales in captivity
6. c) San Diego
7. It has seen its revenue drop.
8. captivity
9. A killer whale that caused the death of its trainer (by pulling her into a pool at Sea World).
10. False – they still go into the water and swim with the orcas while training them.