

# NEWS BREAK

**Wednesday's News Break selects an article from Monday, November 30** 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.**

**Endangered fishers to return to Cascades** (NW Monday, **page B2**).

## 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. Also discuss what clues the photo accompanying the article might give you.

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

- A. biodiversity
- B. canopy
- C. declined
- D. dens
- E. dwelling
- F. ecosystem
- G. elevation
- H. endangered
- I. habitat
- J. predator
- K. range
- L. reintroduced
- M. relocate
- N. reproduce
- O. resilient

- 1. to live in a particular place
- 2. an animal that lives by killing and eating other animals
- 3. the existence of many different kinds of plants and animals in an environment
- 4. to move to a new place
- 5. the place or type of place where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives or grows
- 6. the home of some kinds of wild animals
- 7. the area in which an animal or plant naturally lives
- 8. everything that exists in a particular environment
- 9. able to become strong, healthy, or successful again after something bad happens
- 10. the highest layer of branches in a forest or on a tree
- 11. to produce babies, young animals, new plants, etc.
- 12. used to describe a type of animal or plant that has become very rare and that could die out completely
- 13. to become lower in amount or less in number

14. to return (an animal or plant) to the area where it used to live
15. the height of a place

### Comprehension

1. The first fisher reintroduction in the state was done in \_\_\_\_\_. **(Multiple Choice)**
  - a) Mount Rainier National Park
  - b) North Cascades National Park
  - c) Olympic National Park
2. Historically, fishers were found throughout much of the \_\_\_\_\_ areas of Washington state. **(Fill in the blank)**
3. Fishers are believed to have disappeared from the state in the mid-1900s. What caused the fisher to decline in numbers?
4. State and Federal wildlife officials are preparing to re-establish fishers into Mount Rainier and North Cascades national parks and surrounding areas as part of an effort to restore the fishers to their previous range. Where are wildlife officials capturing the fishers in order to relocate them?
5. Before the fishers that wildlife officials capture are relocated to Washington state they will be examined in order to determine what?
6. The plan by wildlife officials is to reintroduce \_\_\_\_\_ fishers a year for two years. **(Multiple Choice)**
  - a) 20
  - b) 40
  - c) 80
7. The goal of the plan to reintroduce the fisher to the two national parks is to rebuild the population so fishers can survive and do what on their own?
8. Name one other animal from the animal family that Fishers belong to.
9. Fishers are \_\_\_\_\_ that eat small mammals. **(Fill in the blank)**
10. Fishers are only found in North America – **true or false?**

### Additional Activities

1. Fishers were listed by Washington state as an endangered species in 1998. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service last fall proposed listing the West Coast population of fishers as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act. What is the Endangered Species Act and what is the difference between an animal listed as endangered and one listed as threatened?
2. Read more about the fisher, its decline and recovery plan at:  
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/fisher/>
3. Have students read the following Seattle Times article from 2014 about the recovery of the fisher on the Olympic Peninsula.  
<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/signs-of-once-extinct-fishers-found-all-over-olympic-peninsula/>

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### **Answer Key to Vocabulary**

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

### **Answer Key to Comprehension Questions**

- 1. c) Olympic National Park
- 2. forested
- 3. They declined in numbers due to overtrapping and the loss of forest habitats.
- 4. They are capturing them from British Columbia.
- 5. That they are healthy and disease-free.
- 6. b) 40
- 7. Reproduce on their own.
- 8. Weasels, mink, otters **(Answers may vary – only one example necessary)**
- 9. predators
- 10. True