

NEWS BREAK

Wednesday's News Break selects an article from Monday, January 25 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.**

Feds to end ultralights helping migration of young whooping cranes (Main, page A9).

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Read the title of this article. What does it mean when an animal migrates? Look up the definition in a dictionary if you're unsure. Why do you think a whooping crane (bird) might need help migrating? What do you think an ultralight is?

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

- A. common thread
- B. conservation
- C. distinct
- D. establish
- E. flock
- F. fledge
- G. interaction
- H. migrate
- I. mantra
- J. opposed
- K. practice
- L. setback

- 1. to develop the feathers necessary for flying
- 2. different in a way that you can see, hear, smell, feel, etc.
- 3. not agreeing with or approving of something or someone
- 4. the protection of animals, plants, and natural resources
- 5. to move from one area to another at different times of the year
- 6. something that is done often or regularly
- 7. to succeed in making or creating (something)
- 8. to come together and have an effect on each
- 9. a problem that makes progress more difficult or success less likely
- 10. a word or phrase that is repeated often or that expresses someone's basic beliefs
- 11. a similar idea or pattern to a series of events
- 12. a group of birds or animals

Comprehension

1. Why did the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service say it will stop supporting the use of ultralight aircraft to help young whooping cranes migrate from Wisconsin to Florida each fall?
2. Operation Migration, the Canadian-based nonprofit group has led the migrations for 15 years, has opposed the end of the ultralight aircrafts – **true or false?**
3. The effort has spent more than \$20 million to establish a flock that is distinct from what?
4. Nearly how many whooping cranes have been released in Wisconsin since 2001?
(Multiple Choice)
 - a) **100**
 - b) **150**
 - c) **250**
5. Fish and Wildlife officials say about 93 of the whooping cranes are alive. But only how many chicks have survived to fledge?
6. Since 2005, the chicks that fledged and were born in the wild came from only five pairs of adults. What did Pete Fasbender, a field-office supervisor of the Fish and Wildlife Service, say was the common thread as to why the other cranes weren't having chicks that survived to fledge?
7. In addition to the use of aircraft, what else did experts in crane biology conclude was having a negative impact on the cranes?
8. In addition to the use of ultralight aircraft to help young cranes migrate, what other changes did officials announce that were in the best interest of the birds?

Additional Activities

1. Learn more about the whooping cranes and Operation Migration at: <http://operationmigration.org/#>
2. Have students watch the following video about the whooping crane migration with the use of ultralights: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGX52B9iXXU>
After watching the video discuss the following: Do you think the ultralights make a good "surrogate parent" for the young cranes – why or why not? Do you think hatching the whooping crane chicks in a laboratory and allowing them to imprint on costumed humans is a good idea – why or why not? Do you think Operation Migration should be allowed to continue?

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Answer Key to Vocabulary

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

Answer Key to Comprehension Questions

1. They said that the birds haven't been successful in producing chicks and raising them in the wild.
2. True
3. To establish a flock that's distinct from a larger flock of whooping cranes (migrating between the Texas Gulf Coast and northern Canada).
4. c) 250
5. Only 10 chicks have survived to fledge.
6. The lack of parenting skills.
7. Other human interaction.
8. Limiting human interaction and minimizing a practice where costumed humans help care for chicks.