

Teaching News Is Elementary

October 28, 2016

Each week, this lesson will share some classroom activity ideas that use the newspaper or other NIE resources. You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a class discussion.

Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.

Materials you will need for this lesson: The Seattle Times print replica, computer or smart board, pencils or pens, and paper

Article: “Rescued sea otter Rialto ‘brimming with joy and life’ in Vancouver, B.C.”

Pages: NW Thursday, Page B1

Date: Thursday, October 27, 2016

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.7

Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.4

With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

Objective: Students will read an informational text in order to learn about Rialto the otter, and then compose a poem about Rialto.

Pre- Reading Discussion Questions:

Examine the following photo from seattletimes.com:



What do you see in this picture? What is happening? What questions do you have about this picture?

Vocabulary:

Read the following quotes and determine the meaning of the word based on how it's used in the sentence.

"Rialto the rescued baby sea otter is **thriving** in his new home at the Vancouver Aquarium."

Thriving: growing or developing successfully

"The Seattle Aquarium nursed Rialto back to health with round-the-clock care until Sept. 19. By then **robust** and growing fast, he was moved to the Vancouver Aquarium."

Robust: strong and healthy

"His coat has long since transformed from the fluffy golden **natal pelage** of a sea-otter pup to the rich, deep, chocolate-brown fur of an adult."

Natal: of or relating to the place or time of one's birth

Pelage: the fur, hair, or wool of a mammal

"A little more than 3 months old now, Rialto is energetic, investigates everything around him and zooms around his pool with **zest**, Larson said."

Zest: great enthusiasm and energy

Journal Writing Prompts:

How would it be different to take care of a wild animal than a pet? How are wild animals and pets different? Do you think Rialto is a wild animal or a pet? Why?

You can read more about wild vs. domestic animals in The Seattle Times supplement, 'Homes are Habitats Too', available here: http://nie.seattletimes.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2016/10/SeattleAnimalShelter_10-3-16_Tab2016_final.pdf

Discussion Questions:

"Rialto the rescued baby sea otter is thriving in his new home at the Vancouver Aquarium in British Columbia."

Why is Rialto in an aquarium? What is Rialto's personality like? What kinds of things does Rialto like to do for fun? Have you ever seen an otter before? Where? What else do you know about otters?

Small group discussion and activity:

Watch the video of Rialto available on The Seattle Times website:

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/sea-otter-rialto-thriving-and-brimming-with-joy-and-life-at-vancouver-aquarium/>

Use what you see in the video to write a poem about Rialto. You might want to try writing a Haiku that describes what Rialto looks like, or an acrostic poem using Rialto's name! What does Rialto like to do? What is he thinking about? What do you think an average day is like for the otter? You might also want to draw an illustration to go along with your poem!