NEWS BREAK

Article: Last southern resident orca in captivity will no longer perform

Section: NW, C1

Sunday's News Break selects an article from Sunday, March 6, 2022 of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

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

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Objectives:

Students will discuss whether they’ve seen animal shows before and how it made them feel, they’ll talk about whether they’ll look at these performances differently after reading this article. They’ll think about whether animals should be protected against theft and then forced to perform for their profits. Students will learn about the USDA inspector’s reports on the exhibit conditions and PETA’s call to release Lolita to a sanctuary and of they think that will happen. They will discuss the Capture Era and whether they had prior knowledge of this period in time.
Pre-Reading Discussion:

What do you think the article will be about, using only this picture?
Are there any clues? What can you infer?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using context clues? A context clue is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

The closure of Lolita’s exhibit comes amid a drumbeat from activists seeking Lolita’s release, and seeking answers following critical findings by USDA inspectors during a routine inspection last September.

Activists Guess:

Activists Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. In a surprise move, the federal agency in charge of the welfare of captive marine mammals has brought the curtain down on Lolita, the captive performing killer whale, a fixture of performances at the Miami Seaquarium for more than ____ years.
2. Washington Gov. Mike Lowry to nonprofits and the Lummi Nation leaders who regard her as a relative. Lolita is a member of the southern resident pods that frequent Puget Sound. She was captured in Penn Cove in August ________ as a young whale and has been performing at the Seaquarium ever since.
3. She is the sole surviving southern resident of the capture era, which killed a _______ of the pods.
4. The news was announced Thursday, as the USDA granted an exhibitor's license to MS Leisure Co. What was the catch?
5. If the company later wants to show her, it will have to do what?
6. The closure of Lolita's exhibit comes amid a drumbeat from activists seeking Lolita's release, and seeking answers following critical findings by USDA inspectors during a routine inspection last September. What did they find?
7. What did some animals in tanks bring to visiting inspectors?
8. The water in Lolita's tank was so dirty it was _________.
9. The capture era was ended in Washington in _________ by state leaders who took the captors to court and won.
10. Whom did the captors target? Why?
11. What organization has continued to press a lawsuit for Lolita's release?

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:

- What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?
- At first I thought ____________, but now I think ____________?
- What things did you already know from prior experience?

Have you ever seen animals performing for audiences-maybe at a circus or a water park? How did that make you feel? Do you think about it differently after you’ve read this article? Why or why not?

Should animals be protected against theft and then making them perform for profits? Why or why not?

How did you feel about the USDA inspector's reports of their exhibit conditions?

“PETA is calling for this to be the first step toward releasing Lolita … to a seaside sanctuary,” said Jared Goodman, PETA Foundation Vice President and Deputy General Counsel for Animal Law.

PETA is fighting for Lolita to be moved to a seaside sanctuary. Do you think this will happen? Why or why not?

Did you know about the “Capture Era” prior to reading this article?

News Break is posted to the Web on Monday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please register online or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.

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