

Fourth Grade

English Language Learners Academic Packet



Week 8

May 18 -May 22, 2020

Name: _____

California rescuers free entangled whale

GILLIAN FLACCUS, The Associated Press

November 1, 2015

Lexile®: 730L, 231 words



LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Rescuers freed a humpback whale that was entangled in fishing line. The nylon rope stretched from its mouth to its tail.

The adult humpback was seen on Friday. It was about 45 miles south of Los Angeles.

The first rescue team cut about 100 feet of rope and buoys from the whale. But the whale became nervous and dove deep underwater. Rescuers couldn't reach it for the rest of the day.

The whale moved about 60 miles south. It was spotted again Saturday in San Diego.

The second rescue team was from a marine animal theme park. The team worked on helping the whale for three hours. They cut away more than 230 feet of rope.

A spokeswoman for the theme park said she hoped they gave the whale a second chance at life. She said a small amount of rope was left in the whale's mouth.

The first rescue team helped about 50 whales since January. A program specialist for the administration explained that warmer waters could be bringing the whales closer to shore. Here they get trapped in fishing gear.

The specialist said experts want to know how the whales are getting entangled.

Rescuers found information on the buoys. This information will help pinpoint where the whale became entangled.

Scientists are trying to think ahead. They are looking for ways to prevent whales from getting entangled in the future.

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Name: _____

California rescuers free entangled whale

Comprehension Questions

- 1. Choose the main idea of this article.**
 - a. Humpback whales can be found south of Los Angeles.
 - b. Rescuers helped a humpback whale.
 - c. Whales will eat things they should not eat.
 - d. A whale can become nervous easily.
- 2. Which detail from the article best supports the main idea?**
 - a. Rescuers worked on the whale to remove rope.
 - b. Some rope was left in the freed whale's mouth.
 - c. The whale dove deep underwater when it became nervous.
 - d. The adult humpback whale was seen about 45 miles south of Los Angeles.
- 3. What caused the whale to get caught in the fishing line?**
 - a. becoming nervous
 - b. swimming close to shore
 - c. moving 60 miles south
 - d. diving deep underwater
- 4. Which would be the best detail to add to this article?**
 - a. the kinds of fish people catch off the California coast
 - b. a list of whales that swim near the California coast
 - c. a list of the types of rope used for fishing
 - d. an idea that could keep whales from getting tangled in the future

Fourth Grade

English Language Learners Academic Packet



Week 9

May 25 -May 27, 2020

Name: _____

Trained elephants are helping control forest fires

The Associated Press

November 11, 2015

Lexile®: 710L, 178 words



SIAK, Indonesia (AP) — Twenty-three trained elephants are being used in Indonesia to help control forest fires.

Riau province in East Sumatra has been covered in smoke for nearly three months. The smoke is from forest fires and land clearing. The province has many peat-rich areas. Peat burns very easily. It is very hard to control flames in these areas.

The trained elephants are being used as “forest watchdogs.”

The elephants and their crews patrol burned areas in the forest. They carry water pumps and hoses. Their job is to make sure fires don’t restart.

The elephants had earlier been trained in other ways. They helped find people that were on the land illegally. They also helped drive wild elephants out of human areas and back to their habitats.

Indonesia has had less rain than usual this year. People have also been burning the land. So Indonesia has been unable to put out the forest fires.

Much of the burned land has been turned into oil palm and pulp plantations. More than 25,000 acres of land have been burned in the province.

Name: _____

Trained elephants are helping control forest fires

Comprehension Questions

1. **Choose the main idea of this article**
 - a. East Sumatra is filled with smoke from fires.
 - b. Elephants are easily trained.
 - c. Indonesia needs more rain.
 - d. Elephants are helping to control fires in Indonesia.

2. **Which detail from the article best supports the main idea?**
 - a. One area has been covered in smoke for nearly three months.
 - b. Indonesia didn't have as much rain this year as it needed.
 - c. The elephants' job is to make sure fires don't start again.
 - d. Many thousands of acres of land have been burned in the province.

3. **After reading the article, what can you infer about elephants?**
 - a. They are afraid of fire.
 - b. They are smart.
 - c. They are slow-moving animals.
 - d. They are not normally found in Indonesia.

4. **Which sentence correctly describes a problem and solution from the article?**
 - a. Fires are stopped by trained elephants.
 - b. Smoke is cleared with peat.
 - c. Burned land is cleared by rain.
 - d. Wild elephants are calmed by clearing the land.