DAILY Warm-Up 3

Name _____ Date _____

CAPTIVE WHALES

People from around the world love to come watch whales perform at sea-animal aquariums and theme parks across the country. At first glance, this may seem harmless enough, but it is not. After researching the lasting effect on these whales, some marine biologists are wondering if these whales should be set free. Keeping whales locked up and out of their natural habitat is cruel and should be prohibited. They feel that it's just not the humane thing to be doing.

It's understandable that people love to see these whales and dolphins doing tricks and entertaining audiences, but at what expense? These whales are trapped and confined and ordered to perform on command. In the wild, whales and dolphins live in groups, but in the aquariums and theme parks they live alone. It's been said that they receive little medical care as well. Evidence of this is the sores they have covering their skin.

Other marine biologists claim that these whales and dolphins receive excellent care and live in state-of-the-art conditions. Their homes at the aquariums and theme parks are of the highest quality. They feel they get better treatment than if they lived in the wild. They further claim that many of these whales have been saved from the wild. If left out in the wild, they would have died.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. In the wild, whales usually live in . . .
   a. solitary confinement.
   b. groups.
   c. colonies.
   d. coral reefs.
2. What do some scientists say the sores on whale skin show evidence of?
   a. The whales receive little medical care.
   b. They are allergic to the water they live in.
   c. They are suffering from depression.
   d. They are not receiving enough vitamins and nutrients.
3. Why do other marine biologists say that the whales in these conditions are doing just fine?

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LIVEWORKSHEETS