

Japanese whaling to increase (Wed 13 Apr, 2005)

WARM-UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about: whales / endangered species / Antarctica / whaling / whale meat / Japanese supermarkets / dolphins / Greenpeace.

For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

WHALE BRAINSTORM: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word “whale”. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW? With paper and pen, walk around the class ask other students, “What do you know about whales?” Return to your partner / group and share your findings to build up a knowledge base about whales. Walk around the class again, this time telling classmates about whales: “Did you know (that) ...?”

MY WHALE LIFE: You are a whale. Talk to your partner (also a whale) about your daily life. Ask your partner questions about his/her whale life – hobbies, family, what they do in the evenings etc.

2-MINUTE DEBATES: Face each other in pairs and engage in the following (for-fun) 2-minute debates. Students A take the first argument, students B the second. Rotate pairs to ensure a lively pace and noise level is kept:

- a. Whales are best. vs. Sharks are best.
- b. Whale meat is delicious. vs. It’s wrong to eat whale meat.
- c. I want to go whale watching. vs. Whale watching sounds very boring.
- d. Whaling should be banned. vs. Whaling for research is OK.
- e. Whales are too intelligent to be eaten. vs. So are cows and pigs.
- f. Whale is an important part of Japanese culture. vs. Japanese culture must change.
- g. Whaling is cruel. vs. So is boxing.
- h. Whales talk to each other. vs. Birds talk to each other too.

PRE-READING IDEAS

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'ask' and 'permission'.

TRUE FALSE: Guess whether the following statements about the article are true or false:

- a. Japan wants to triple the number of whales it kills each year. T / F
- b. Whaling was banned in 1952. T / F
- c. Japan is allowed to kill whales and sell the meat in supermarkets. T / F
- d. Japanese scientists want to kill whales to find out about the human body. T / F
- e. Japan insists no endangered whales are killed. T / F
- f. Most countries around the world are happy with Japan's whaling program. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| (a) ask for | increase twofold |
| (b) double | permitted |
| (c) banned | discover |
| (d) allowed | oppose |
| (e) meat | useless |
| (f) find out | request |
| (g) disagree with | prohibited |
| (h) unnecessary | flesh |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| (a) ask for | to kill a small number of whales |
| (b) double | environment |
| (c) commercial | out more |
| (d) Japan is allowed | permission |
| (e) find | anger |
| (f) the earth's | whaling |
| (g) created a lot of | of whaling |
| (h) Opponents | the number of whales |

WHICH WORD? Choose the correct word from each pair of italics

Japanese whaling to increase

BNE: The Japanese Government will ask for *request / permission* from the International Whaling Commission to *double / dual* the number of whales it kills each year in the Antarctic. Although the IWC *banned / band* commercial whaling in 1986, Japan is allowed to kill a small number of whales every year for research. However, two million kilograms of meat from the whales killed is sold in Japanese supermarkets. Japanese scientists say they want to kill more whales to find out more about the *oceans / fields* and the earth's environment. They insist no *endangered / dangerous* whales are killed. The plan has created a lot of anger worldwide as most countries *disagree / agree* with whaling. Opponents of whaling, including the USA, say such research is cruel and unnecessary.

DISCUSSION:

- a. Did anything in this article make you angry?
- b. Was there anything in this article you cannot agree with?
- c. Do you want to know more about whaling?
- d. Have you ever eaten whale meat?
- e. Is whaling OK for scientific reasons?
- f. Is whaling OK for whaling for commercial purposes?
- g. Is it OK to ask Japan to stop whaling even though it is part of its culture?
- h. Is eating whale different from eating beef?
- i. Many believe whales are too intelligent to eat. What do you think?
- j. Many believe whales suffer too much when they are slaughtered. What do you think?
- k. Some whales will die out within twenty years. What can we do about this?
- l. Do you belong to Greenpeace or any other environmental groups?
- m. Many countries get angry about whaling, but practice blood sports in their own countries. What do you think about this?
- n. What would you think if you saw whale meat on sale in a Japanese supermarket?
- o. Did you like this discussion?
- p. Teacher / Student additional questions.

NOT ME:

In pairs / groups, choose which of the animals below you would like to be for this activity. Write down as many reasons as you can why you should NOT end up on a dinner plate. Talk with other “creatures” in the class and try to persuade them why they, and not you, would make a better dinner for humans.

whale / dog / shark / elephant / cow / snake / eagle / elephant / dolphin

WHALING ROLE PLAY: Use the following role play cards in a discussion about whaling. Team up with partners to discuss your roles and “strategy” before the role play begins. After the role play, discuss whether you really believed what you were saying.

THE ROLES:

Student A

You are a Japanese whaler living in a very remote coastal village. Your community has whaled for centuries. Your community needs whaling to survive. You hate Greenpeace. They don’t understand the oceans.

Student B

You are the Greenpeace president. You believe it is bad to kill whales. They are endangered and very intelligent. There is no scientific reason to kill whales.

Student C

You are president of a whale meat factory. You think whales will never die out. You believe that one day it will be too expensive to raise cows on land. Whales will become an important source of food.

Student D

You are a whale with a family.

HOMEWORK

- 1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google’s search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.
- 2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find information on whaling. Share your findings with your class next lesson.
- 3. LETTER TO IWC:** Write a letter to the International Whaling Commission letting them know your views on Japan’s desire to double the number of whales it wants to kill. Read it to your class in your next lesson.
- 4. ONE WHALE:** Write a short article about one species of whale. Talk about your article in your next class.

TEXT

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