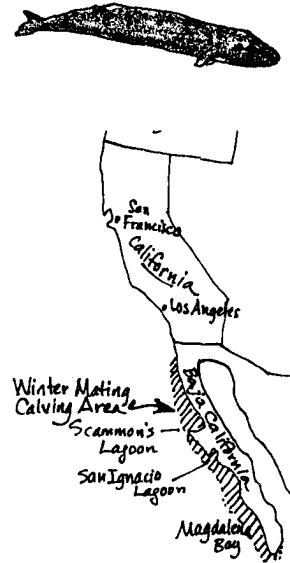


# Protecting Whales - December 21

## Key Concepts

1. The International Whaling Commission (IWC), which has no police powers, is the only worldwide organization responsible for regulating whaling.
2. Today, whales are hunted by Norway; Japan; Russia; Alaskan Inuit, Yupik and Aleut peoples; and pirate whalers.
3. Purchase of whale products causes more whales to be killed to supply that demand.
4. Letter writing campaigns, boycotts, and similar economic and political pressures sometimes effect policy changes.



## Background

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) is the only worldwide organization with responsibility for controlling the whaling industry. Its membership is on a voluntary basis and includes representatives of nations who still hunt the great whales and of those who oppose whale hunting.

The International Whaling Commission was created in 1946, in Washington, D.C. in response to the fear of many marine scientists who predicted that the whale would be annihilated if the pre-war slaughter continued. Most of the world's whaling nations joined the Commission. The Commission had the duty to set minimum-length requirements, set the opening and closing dates for the whaling season, and set an annual Antarctic quota.

Despite its impressive responsibilities, the Commission was at first doomed to the role of a powerless administrator. Any member nation, if it gave 90 days notice, could refuse to obey any Commission decision. The Commission was also powerless to limit the number of factory ships or to allocate a quota to any of them. This would have violated the principle of the freedom of the high seas which grants to every nation the right to use the resources of the oceans as it decides. The result was an increasing number of whaling fleets hunting fewer and fewer whales!

From the years since the creation of the International Whaling Commission to the mid-1980's, the estimated quantity of whales continued to decrease. The necessity to make decisions based on the opinions of the member nations resulted in protection for the various species of whales coming too little and too late.

While scientists and annual catch statistics continually predicted that the blue whale would be hunted into extinction, the Japanese, Russian, and Dutch members refused to agree to any regulation to protect it. In 1964, the number of blue whales killed dropped to 20 for the entire whaling industry. Compare this with 29,400 killed in 1931. Following the 1964 season, the member nations agreed to place the blue whale on the protected species list. In effect, the whaling industry had waited until the blue whale could no longer be hunted profitably before they would protect it!

In 1964, the Commission set a quota of 16,000 whales that could be killed. Scientists predicted then that the figure was too high and the whale population would not be able to recover. By 1963, the Committee of Three, a team of three scientists hired by the Commission to advise on the proper quota limit, suggested a limit of 4,000 whales. The Japanese refused to accept a quota less than 10,000 whales. Since the Japanese could have refused to accept the Commission's quota, the rest of the nations on the Commission agreed to the Japanese figure. The Japanese refusal underscores the Commission's lack of enforcement power.

By 1976, 30 years after its creation, it was abundantly clear that the Commission had still not fulfilled its obligations. In that year, it was necessary to ban the killing of:

- all Fin Whales in the Southern Hemisphere and North Pacific;
- Sei Whales in the Nova Scotia region of the North Atlantic and in two regions of the Antarctic;
- Bryde's Whales in the Southern Hemisphere;
- Minke Whales in the East and Central South Pacific; and
- Sperm Whales in areas of the Southern Hemisphere

Since 1976, public opinion worldwide has helped the IWC more effectively manage whale populations. Individuals from dozens of countries have worked to see that IWC recommendations are followed. In 1984 the strengthened IWC instituted a moratorium (ban) on all commercial whaling. The IWC believed a

moratorium would prevent the extinction of currently over-exploited whale species, allow the depleted stocks of whales to recover, and give scientists time in which to make proper and accurate assessment of whale populations and their ecology.

The moratorium protects all stocks of large whales from commercial whaling by member countries of the IWC. There is good evidence that most of the stocks of whales that have been monitored are recovering. If whaling is resumed, it is likely that the quotas will be very low. Further, only whales that have recovered will be considered for commercial whaling. As the IWC discusses these plans, other economic factors are assuming an important role. From the time whale watching began in Japan in 1988, the number of passengers on whale watching boats has almost doubled every year. The money the boat operators, marina operators, and hotels make from whale watchers has also almost doubled every year. In 1992, more than 19,000 people went whale watching in Japan raising a staggering 1,014,900,000 yen (about 9.5 million dollars). The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society reported to the 1993 IWC conference in Japan that “IWC manages whales for the entire world, and it should now consider the importance and the value of whales alive. World-wide, whale watching, not whaling, is the most pervasive use of whales today.”

While the situation is much improved, problems still exist. For example, many countries that are not members of the IWC allow whaling. In addition, “pirate” whalers who indiscriminately take any type of whale in any region, exist. Some countries have broken away from the IWC. Norway, for example, broke away from the IWC in 1993, allocated itself a quota of 160 minke whales and met the quota before fall of the same year. In spite of the fact that whale watching is gaining in popularity in Japan, some fear that Japan will soon follow Norway’s lead.

Against this background, the gray whale became the first and only whale to be “de-listed” from the endangered species list. A 1991, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) review of the California gray whale in the eastern North Pacific Ocean determined that the stock size had been increasing in recent years at a rate of over three percent a year. In 1993, the members of the International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee and other scientists estimated this gray whale population to be over 21,000, a figure higher than the estimated 1846 prewhaling population of 15,000 to 20,000 for this group. Based on these figures, in 1994 the gray whale in U.S. waters was removed from the endangered species list, although it does remain subject to prohibitions against harm under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. The NMFS is monitoring the species for five years. If at any time during the monitoring period, the gray whale is threatened, emergency protective regulations will be issued. Unfortunately, the gray whale population in the

western North Pacific Ocean has not yet recovered from commercial whaling and remains endangered. As the first whale to fully recover from near extinction, will gray whales in the eastern North Pacific Ocean again be hunted?

What are current policies on whaling? You may be interested in contacting the IWC at:

The Red House; Station Road; Histon, Cambridge CB4 4NP; U.K.

What is the current U.S. policy on whaling? You can find out from:

Secretary of State, Department of State; Washington, D.C. 20520

Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration U.S. Department of Commerce; Washington, D.C. 20230

## Materials

For each student:

- “Protecting Whales - December 21” student activity pages
- envelopes and stamps
- stationery (personal letterhead or other)

## Teaching Hints

In “Protecting Whales - December 21”, which sees the gray whale we have been following return to the calving grounds at Scammon’s Lagoon, Baja California, Mexico, students are provided with a brief account of the lagoon environment followed by a reading focusing on the International Whaling Commission and current whaling issues. “Protecting Whales - Causes and Effects” serves as a summary for this lesson and the previous lessons on whaling.

Be aware that students of Norwegian, Japanese, Russian, and Alaskan Inuit, Yupik and Aleut national ancestries may be sensitive to the issues presented in this activity. Help everyone to understand that whaling is a complex issue and that national governments permit, encourage, or discourage whaling in its various forms for the citizens and territories of each country. Emphasize that we all have a stake in the survival of whale species, no matter what our ancestry may be, and that we can work together to resist blaming and to achieve this worthwhile goal.

Duplicate the student text. You may choose to assign reading and questions as an individual or small group activity. The concepts of economics, politics, and international affairs can be difficult for young people. Reading and discussing this text orally as a class is one way to check for understanding among your students. Prior to your general summary discussion, you may elect to have your class meet in small groups for a discussion of the text questions. As a beginning to your summary discussion, you may wish to have your students recall the route taken by the gray whales. The following questions can provide material for group or class inquiry discussion sessions:

- What do you feel is the future of the remaining whales?
- What might have happened if the whaling nations had cooperated with one another more quickly and established realistic quotas and regulations? Could the decimation of populations of large whales been avoided?
- Do you think that fixed proportions of whales could have been harvested each year? What benefits would have been guaranteed to the people of the world by doing that? Is it possible to have a sustainable harvest on a population of whales?
- What powers could have been given to the International Whaling Commission to enforce its regulations?

Duplicate the “Protecting Whales - Causes and Effects” activity, one for each student or for each small group. Alert students that the activity serves as a review of the material in this activity and in the activity “December 15 - Days of Whaling - Modern Whaling”. Allow time for follow up discussion. If you elect to conclude the lesson with “WRITE LETTERS TO PROTECT WHALES!”, it is especially important that students understand the relationship of “cause and effect” before the letter writing activity (i.e., the pressure of public opinion (cause) may cause a whaling nation to stop whaling (effect)).

Encourage your students to become involved in the efforts to reach an effective and sustainable management policy for marine mammals. “WRITE LETTERS TO PROTECT WHALES!” gives some suggestions for ways to become active. Duplicate the letter writing activity or make a transparency of it. Help students find information about current issues affecting whales. Make a special effort to obtain objective information or information from both sides of an issue. Help students evaluate the information and reach their own decisions. Only after the issues are understood, should the letter writing begin. You may choose to have students individually write or you may choose to have small groups with similar positions write a combined letter. If the class is in agreement regarding a position on the issue, you may choose to develop a model letter from the entire class and have everyone sign the letter. In any case this activity reinforces letter writing skills and gives students a means to

participate in protecting whales. Who knows, they may want to start a schoolwide campaign to send letters.

Provide encouragement for your students' efforts but temper enthusiasm with a discussion of how we harvest meat in our country, recognizing that the way we view our slaughter of cattle, chickens, pigs, or turkeys might be similar to the way people of other countries view the killing of marine mammals. During the discussion pose the question: which group can claim the moral high ground on this issue? Is the answer, both? Or neither? Probably. The key to the problem of depleted marine mammal stocks likely lies in the proper management and controlled harvests which provide for a healthy population and an optimum sustainable yield.

In your discussions encourage students to recognize that the ethics or "humaneness" of harvesting whales can (and one could argue, should) be separated from the issue of sustainability. As a nation, we have not done a good job of separating the two. On this issue, Dr. Doug DeMaster, Biologist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Mammal Laboratory, in reviewing these lessons noted:

"For example, typically conservation among scientists refers to 'wise and sustained' use; whereas to most Americans or at least some environmentalists, it is equated with 'protection'. Further, people, who believe for ethical reasons that whaling should be banned, typically believe whaling is inhumane. Therefore, for these people the issue of sustainability is irrelevant. Perhaps the class should discuss the standards used in this country for what is humane relative to the production of beef, veal, chicken, etc. As is my usual 'beef', the American public is entirely inconsistent in the way it approaches complex issues. Ethics and emotion have a valid place in policy and decision making, but it needs to be recognized when a decision has been made for these reasons, as opposed to reasons relating to more traditional issues of conservation, such as 'is a particular practice sustainable'. Out of respect for non-U.S. cultures, I recommend incorporating the concept of sustainability separate from ethical issues in evaluating the merits of whaling."

In a time of a developing "global village", this seems like wise advice.

If you are using the "Voyage Of The Mimi" in conjunction with this curriculum, "Episode 7: Fastening On" correlates with this lesson.

## Key Words

**baleen** - an elastic, horny substance growing in place of teeth in the upper jaw of certain whales, and forming a series of thin, parallel plates on each side of the palate; whalebone

**blubber** - a fat layer between the skin and muscle of whales from which oil is made

**boycott** - to abstain from buying or using

**catch statistics** - annual compiled statistics revealing the numbers, sizes, species, and locations of whales caught each year

**commercial** - in this case, able to yield or make a profit

**conservation** - the careful utilization of a natural resource in order to prevent depletion

**indicator** - in this case, an animal that indicates, by its presence in a given area, the existence of certain environmental conditions (i.e., the “environmental health” of that area)

**International Whaling Commission (IWC)** - the only worldwide organization with responsibility for controlling the whaling industry

**police powers** - the power of a nation or group, within the limits of its constitution or charter, to regulate the conduct of its citizens or members in the interest of the common good

**population** - all the individuals of one species in a given area

**quota** - in this case, the share or proportional part of a total that is due a particular nation, etc.

**rorqual** - any of several baleen whales

**scrimshaw** - a carved or engraved article, especially of whale ivory, whalebone, or the like, made by whalers as a leisure occupation

**species** - a group of related individuals that resemble one another, are able to breed among themselves, but are not able to breed with members of another species; the basic category of biological classification

**sustained** - in this case, to keep going at a current rate

## Extensions

1. Have your students find out about other countries' views on whaling and the current status of conservation efforts by writing:

UN Mission: Japan, 866 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10016

Embassy of Japan, 2520 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008

Embassy of Iceland, 2022 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008

UN Mission: Norway, 825 3rd Avenue, New York, NY 10022

Royal Norwegian Embassy, 2720 34th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008

American Cetacean Society, P.O. Box 2698, San Pedro, CA 90731

Center for Action on Endangered Species, 175 W. Main, Ayer, MA 01432

Cousteau Society, 777 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017

Defenders of Wildlife, 1244 19th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

Environmental Defense Fund, 1525 18th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

Friends of the Earth, 124 Spear St., San Francisco, CA 94105

Greenpeace USA, 1611 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009

National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022

National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

Ocean Education Project, 245 2nd Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002

Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, P.O. Box 7000 S., Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Sierra Club, 530 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA 94108

The Oceanic Society, 1536 16th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

Whale Protection Fund, Center for Environmental Education  
2101 L St. N.W., Washington, D.C., 20037

World Wildlife Fund, 1250 24th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037

## Answer Key

1. From the context clues available in the text, your students should be able to define "lagoon" as a large, shallow bay or body of water separated from the sea.
2. Scammon's Lagoon, also called Laguna Ojo de Liebre, is located in Mexico. This information is available on the map included in the text.
3. While answers may vary, most students will suggest that the whales wait for the tide to change in order to ride the incoming tides into the lagoon. This practice is an energy saver.



4. Our gray whale has traveled nearly 7,000 miles since leaving the Arctic.
5. This question anticipates the text which follows. Your students should be able to suggest a variety of advantages to birth in the shallow lagoons. These may include, the shallow bottom provides support for the female, the calm waters reduce the risk of suffocation for both cow and calf, and the lagoons provide a convenient gathering place which allows effective mutual cooperation between females.
6. Answers will vary. Many students will think that the whalers turned their attention back to the gray whale as the gray whale population increased in size. They would, of course be correct. Since the question calls for an opinion, accept any reasonable answer.
7. “Police powers” refers to the power (i.e., the right and strength) of a nation or group, within the limits of its constitution or charter, to regulate the conduct of its citizens or members in the interest of the common good. Students should be able to define “police powers” by using context clues from the text sentences surrounding the term
8. The IWC is the International Whaling Commission, a group made up of representatives from whaling and non-whaling nations.
9. The IWC sets minimum length requirements, whaling season dates, and kill quotas.
10. Two shortcomings that prevented the International Whaling Commission from being effective in whale management may be chosen from the following:
  - a. Any member nation, if it gives a 90 days notice, can refuse to obey a Commission decision
  - b. The Commission is powerless to regulate the number of factory ships
  - c. The Commission could not fix the share of the annual quota for member nations.
11. This question asks for an opinion. As such, there are no right or wrong answers. Most of your students will agree that the blue whale is no longer an important commercial whale because of its drastically reduced numbers.

12. The chart included indicates that the following species may be hunted at higher levels (i.e., they are classified as “initial species”).
- Bryde’s
  - Minke (but only in the Southern Hemisphere and a part of the North Pacific)
  - Sperm (but only in part of the Southern Hemisphere and part of the North Pacific)
13. a. The Bryde’s whale is labeled as “Initial” in all three areas.
- Answers will vary. Bryde’s whale was listed as “Initial” because of the believe that it was “abundant enough to exploit”. Many will recognize a familiar pattern in which a new whale species becomes the primary prey of hunters after their current prey is depleted.
14. The IWC believed a moratorium would prevent the extinction of currently over-exploited whale species, allow the depleted stocks of whales to recover, and give scientists time in which to make proper and accurate assessment of whale populations and their ecology.
15. This question asks for an opinion. As such, there are no right or wrong answers. Many people worry about the future of whales because they look at the behavior of whalers in the past and couple that with events such as Norway and Iceland withdrawing from the IWC. You may choose to use this question as a springboard for discussion of whether humans can change present behavior based on the results of past actions.
16. Answers will vary. A discussion of subsistence whaling provides a good springboard for looking at the tradeoffs involved in balancing cultural or historical practices and biological conservation.
17. a. The list of products the United States imports from Japan and Norway is long. Those most common to your students will likely be: cars, cameras, stereos, televisions and other electronic items from Japan and cheese and fish from Norway.
- Answers will vary but most will probably own some of the items listed.
  - Since Japan makes far more money exporting cars and electronic equipment than it earns from whaling, the boycott theory states that it will be to the advantage of Japan (and Norway by analogy) to stop whaling and lose the larger export income. There is some evidence that the boycott technique coupled with advertisements alerting the people of

the plight of the whale has had an effect on the Japanese view toward whaling. Unfortunately, part of the new view involves Japanese financed “front” whaling companies (called “pirate whalers” since they do not recognize IWC regulations) operating out of Peru, Korea and other nations.

18. Since whale watching is a non-consumptive use of whales, they remain alive to reproduce and increase the chances for long term survival of their species.
19. Your students will likely have various interpretations of the statement “Whales are an indicator of the health of the world’s living systems”. The essence of this statement might be summed up by saying that a world which cannot support populations of whales will not be able to long support populations of man. In your discussions of this question, emphasize the fact that all living creatures are interrelated and what affects one, ultimately affects all.

## Protecting Whales - Causes and Effects

### Causes

### Effects

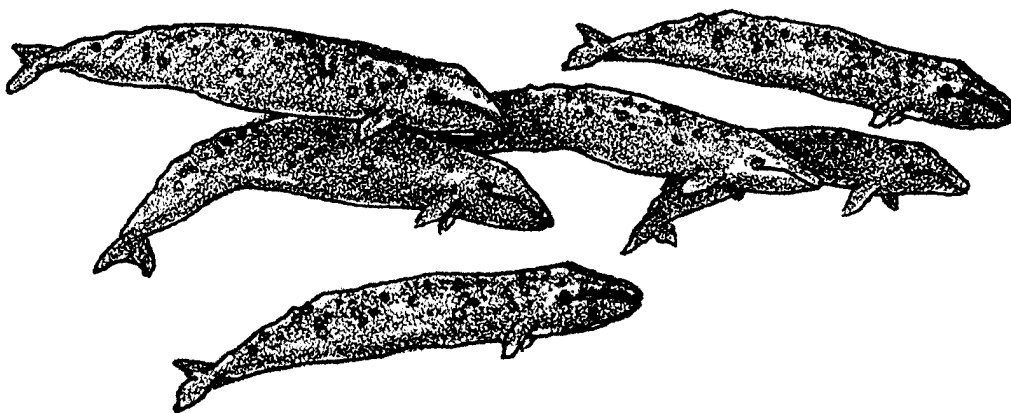
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|---|---|
| <u>C</u> 1. Pennsylvania oil wells produced kerosene.                                 | A. The International Whaling Commission was created.                              |
| <u>F</u> 2. Svend Foyn built the first steam powered whaler.                          | B. By 1925, only 9 humpback whales could be found to kill.                        |
| <u>D</u> 3. Svend Foyn pumped compressed air into dead whales.                        | C. Whale oil was replaced as a fuel for lamps.                                    |
| <u>I</u> 4. Svend Foyn’s whaling techniques were very successful.                     | D. The rorqual whales which sink after death could be hunted.                     |
| <u>K</u> 5. Krill reproduce explosively.  | E. Many whales face extinction.   |
| <u>B</u> 6. Whalers in the Antarctic picked the humpback whale.                       | F. The fast swimming rorqual whales could be chased.                              |
| <u>J</u> 7. Whalers killed all of the whales that bred near Antarctic shore stations. | G. Groups have placed economic and political pressure on whaling countries.       |
| <u>A</u> 8. Marine scientists predicted that the whale would soon become extinct.     | H. Protection for the various species of whales has come too little and too late. |
| <u>H</u> 9. IWC decisions are based on the opinions of the member nations.            | I. By 1903, the blue whale was rarely found in the North Atlantic.                |
| <u>G</u> 10. Many people feel that the IWC alone cannot save the whales.              | J. Factory ships were developed to accompany the fleet into the Antarctic ocean.  |
| <u>E</u> 11. Whales are leaving the sea in tanks, cans veryand sacks.                 | K. Whales that fed on krill were numerous.  |

# Protecting Whales - December 21



Five days ago our whale left behind most of the small boat loads of whale watchers. Since then she has had fewer noises and shapes about which to worry. Each noise and shape has to be evaluated. For each, she has to decide whether to continue on her course or to take evasive action. Her rhythmic pattern of breathing, swimming, breathing, swimming, has brought her near the end of her journey. She hears the familiar sounds of the waves breaking on the sand bars at the entrance to Scammon's Lagoon.

Scammon's Lagoon is a large shallow bay. As the tide falls, our whale feels the current from the out-going water. As she swims near the mouth of the Lagoon, she notices many other gray whales. Now swimming with five other females, she waits for the tide to change.



1. What is a lagoon?

2. In what country is Scammon's Lagoon located?

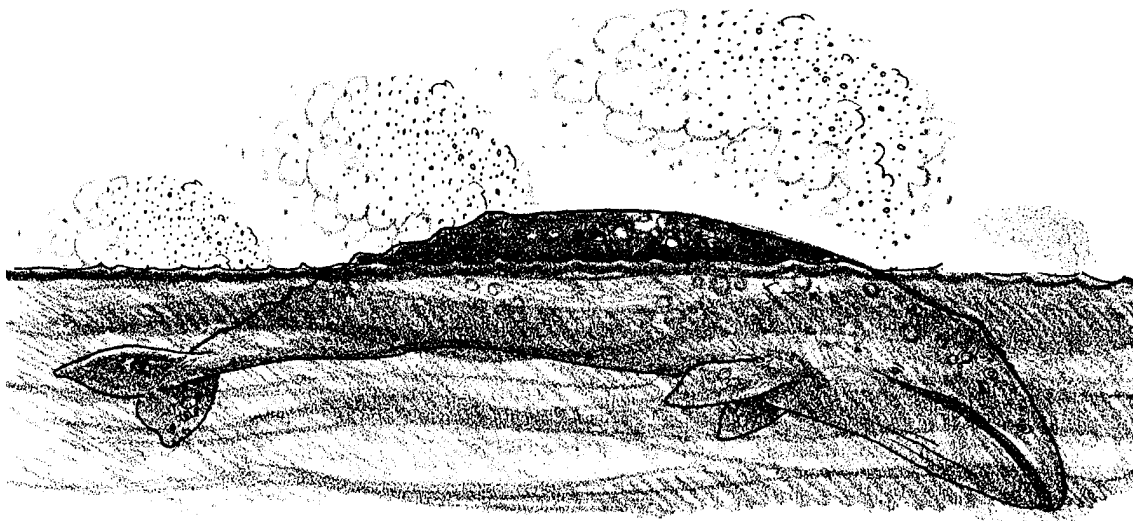
Two and half months have passed since our whale noticed the shortening days in the Arctic north. She has scarcely eaten during this period. She has traveled nearly 7,000 miles to reach the entrance to this lagoon. More whales join the slowly circling group waiting for the tide to change... waiting to enter the quiet waters behind the immense dunes that form the edge of the lagoon.

3. Why do you suppose the whales wait for the tide to change before entering the lagoon?

The waters reverse their direction. Along with her fellows, our whale files through the outer channel between lines of churning water. Aided by the current, she quickly covers the miles and enters the glassy calm of the lagoon. The journey is over.

4. About how many miles has our whale swum since leaving the Arctic?

Morning light finds our whale winding through the narrow tidal channels toward the shallow waters. These shallow back bays have served as a nursery many times before. Her puffs of vapor blend with those from a hundred other females moving through the calm, shallow water.



Our whale spends the next few days exploring the many channels. For other whales, the time for delivery and motherhood is near.

5. What is one possible reason that gray whales have chosen to bear their offspring in shallow lagoons?

Scammon's Lagoon seems like an ideal nursery. Such was not always the case. In 1856, Captain Charles Scammon found gray whales in the lagoons of Baja California. He found whales by the thousand. Soon whalers were hunting the California gray whale in their shallow nursery lagoons. From 1856 to 1874, gray whales were hunted to near extinction.

With the gray whales nearly gone, whalers turned to other species. Slowly, the gray whale population increased in size.

6. Think about the behavior of whalers. What do you think they did when the gray whale population increased?

In 1920, the hunting of gray whales resumed. By 1938, gray whales had again been hunted to near extinction. Other whale populations were also in trouble.

In 1931, whaling nations recognized that something had to be done. The International Convention for the Regulation of Whales met in Geneva, Switzerland. The Convention agreed to protect right whales and bowhead whales, immature whales, and females accompanied by a calf. Unfortunately, the Convention had no "police powers" to enforce the agreement. The slaughter of whales continued.

7. What is meant by the term "police powers"?

Many marine scientists predicted that the whale would become extinct if the slaughter continued. Following World War II a second attempt was made to establish whaling controls. The International Whaling Commission (IWC) was created. Most of the world's whaling nations joined the IWC. The IWC had the duty to set:

- minimum-length requirements,
- the opening and closing dates for the whaling season, and
- an annual quota (catch limit) in the Antarctic.

8. What is the IWC?

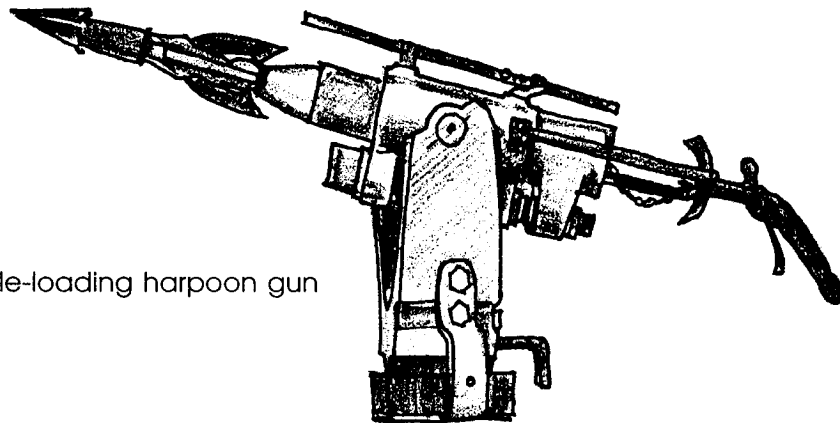
9. What are the duties of the IWC?

The IWC had lots of duties. Unfortunately, it had no power. Any member nation could refuse to obey any IWC decision. All the country had to do was give 90 days notice. Also the IWC had no power to limit the number of factory ships. Nor could they fix the share of the annual quota for member nations. (The quota was the number of whales that could be killed in a season.) The result was an increasing number of whaling fleets hunting fewer and fewer whales!

10. Several things prevented the International Whaling Commission from effectively managing whales. What were two of those things?

a.

b.



Muzzle-loading harpoon gun

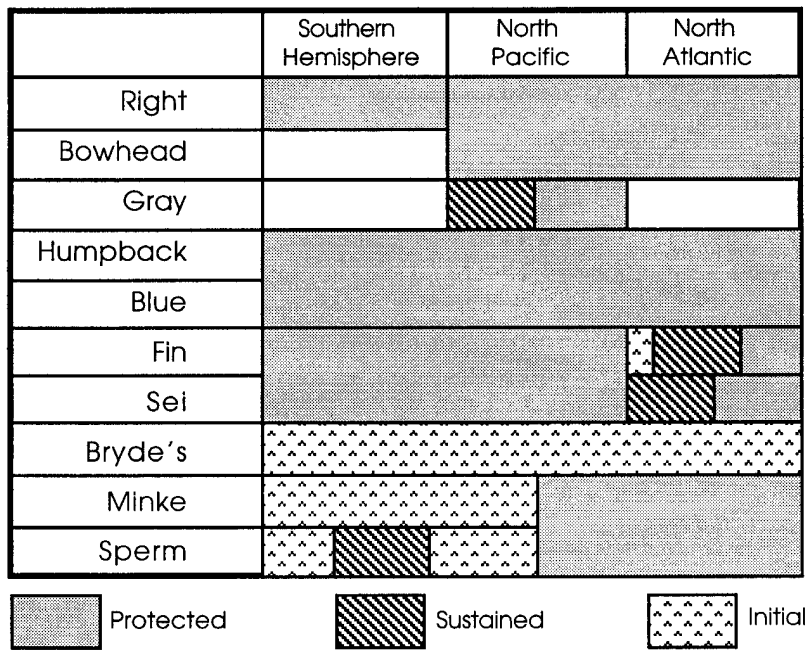
The number of whales continued to decrease until the mid-1980's. Protection for the various whales was coming too little and too late.

Scientists and the size of the annual catch continually predicted that the blue whale would be hunted into extinction. Even so, the Japanese, Russian, and Dutch members refused to agree to any regulation to protect it. In 1964, the number of blue whales killed dropped to 20 for the entire whaling industry. Compare this with 29,400 killed in 1931.

11. Do you think the blue whale is still an important commercial (money making) whale? Please explain your answer.

Following the 1964 season, the member nations agreed to place the blue whale on the “protected species list”. Animals on the list are protected from hunting. The whaling industry had waited until the blue whale could no longer be hunted for a profit before they would protect it!

By 1976, the Commission had still not fulfilled its obligations. In that year, it was necessary to ban the killing of five species of whales.



12. The chart above was made in 1980. It shows the whale species protected by IWC regulations. Whales labeled “Sustained” could be hunted at the same numbers hunted in previous years.

Whales labeled “Initial” could be hunted at higher levels than previous years. List the whale species which could be hunted at higher levels.

- a.
- b.
- c.



13. a. Which whale is labeled “Initial” in all three areas?

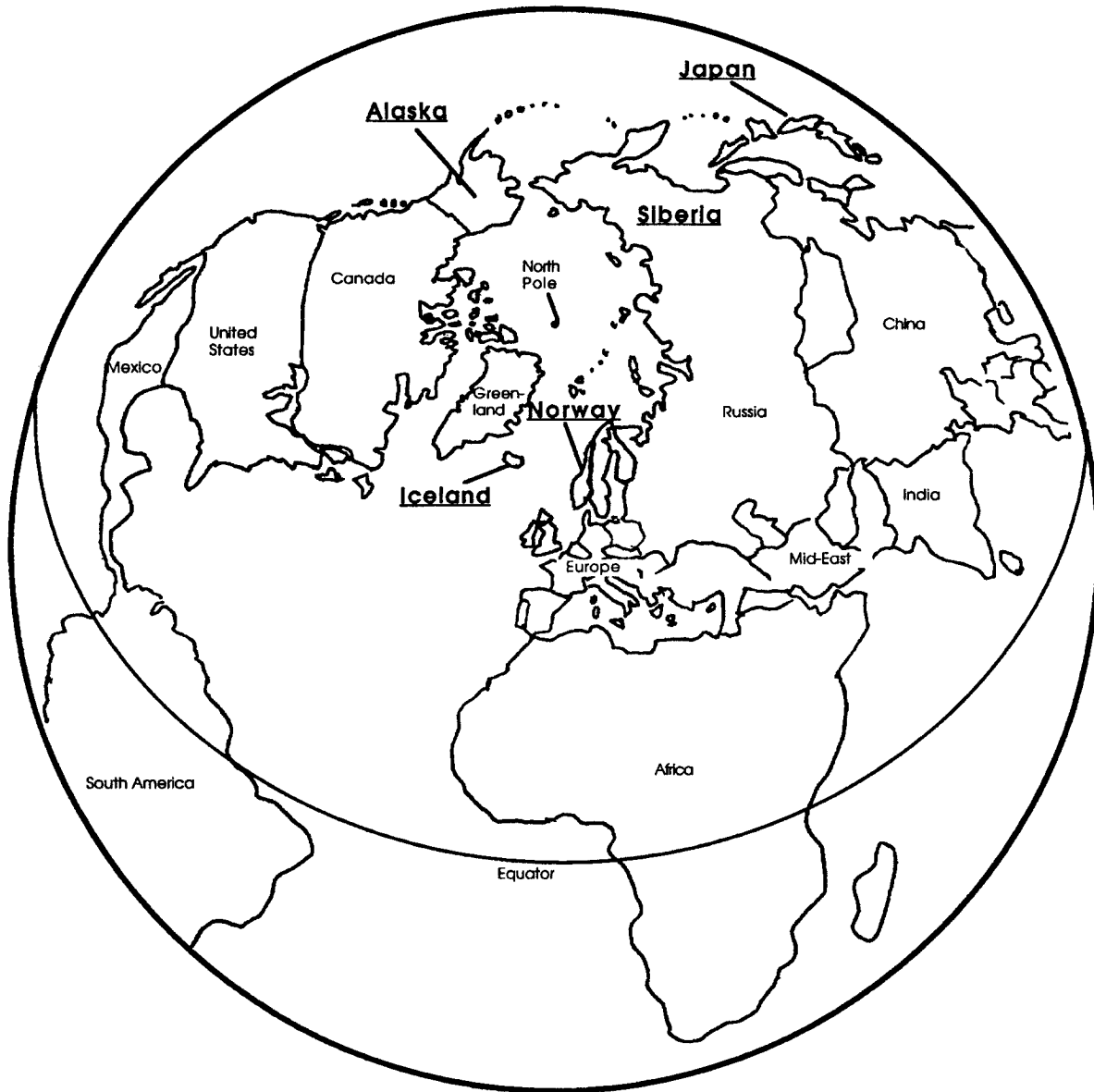
b. In 1982, the National Marine Fisheries studied the Bryde’s whale. They said it recently “became the only remaining large baleen whale in the North Pacific believed abundant enough to exploit”. Think about how whalers behaved in the past. Why do you think the Bryde’s whale was labeled “Initial”?

More and more people began to worry. Since 1976, public opinion about whales has changed worldwide. This change has helped the IWC more effectively manage whale populations. People from dozens of countries have helped. They have worked to see that IWC recommendations are followed. In 1984, a “moratorium” was placed on commercial whaling. This meant whaling would be stopped. These events are hopeful signs for whales.

14. How might such a moratorium help the whales?

Many people celebrated the moratorium. The IWC moratorium protects all large whales from commercial whaling. There is good evidence that most of the whales are recovering. But the whale’s problems are not over. People worry because they look at the history of whaling. They see that in recent times only three countries have hunted whales on a large scale. They are Japan, Norway, and Iceland.

In 1993, Norway broke the IWC worldwide moratorium on commercial whaling. They began hunting whales again for profit. Iceland quit the IWC in 1993 but did not begin hunting whales. Some people think Iceland may begin hunting whales in the future. Others worry that Japan, too, will soon break away from the IWC and begin whaling.

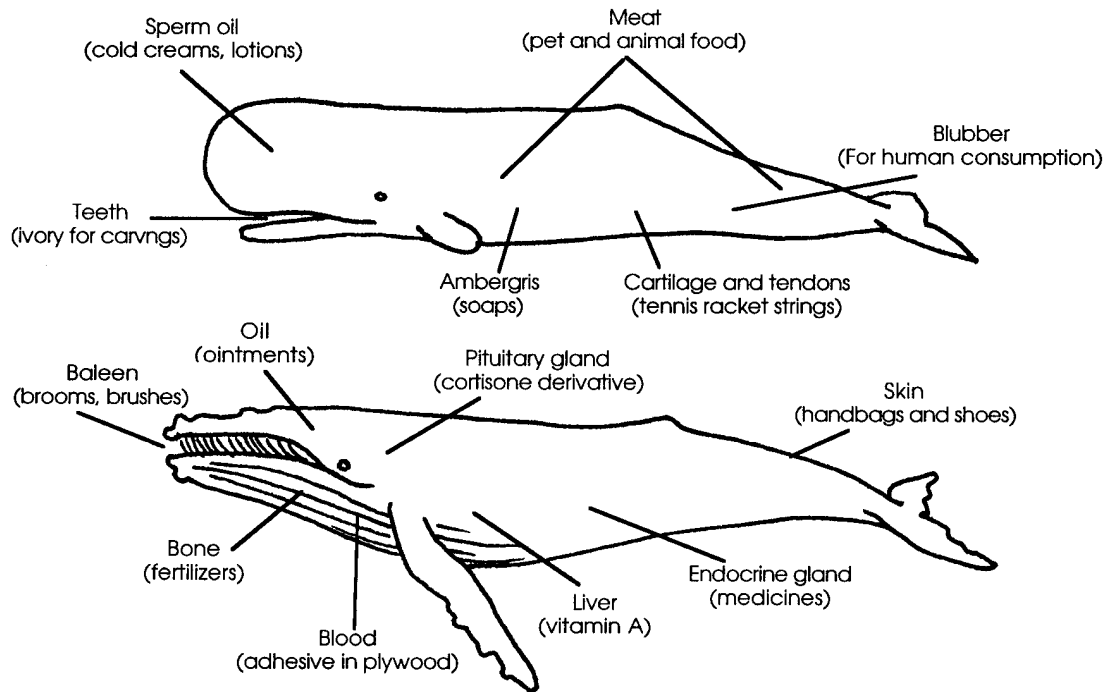


15. Why do you think people worry about the future of the whales?

Others continue to hunt whales, too. Inuit, Yupik and Aleut are groups of Native Americans in Alaska. They kill about 10 bowhead whales each year. Some gray whales are taken from time to time. They are also allowed to make scrimshaw and other handicrafts from these animals. They sell the

handicrafts. For these Alaskan people, whale meat is one of the few foods available near their homes. They want to continue to hunt whales.

In Russia, native peoples are not allowed to hunt the whales. Instead, the government catches and processes the whales. The meat is then given to the native people in Siberia. Many suspect that much of the whale meat is used to feed minks. The minks are raised on “mink farms” for their valuable fur. The IWC has imposed a quota on Russia of 179 gray whales per year.



16. There is debate over whether native peoples should be allowed to continue to kill whales. What do you think? Why?

Because of these issues, many people feel that the IWC cannot save the whales alone. These people feel that nations like Japan or Norway will continue to whale as long as it is profitable. They will hunt the whales to extinction. As a result of these feelings, people have organized groups. These groups place political and economic pressures on whaling countries. Often, they write letters to leaders in governments and businesses. In their letters,

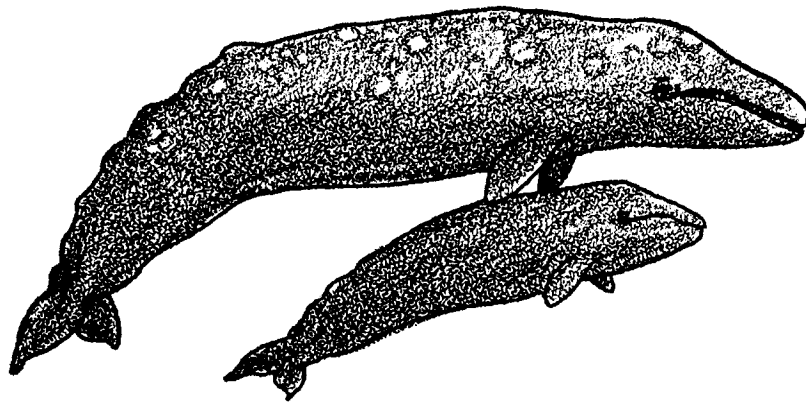
they ask the leaders to stop whaling. Some conservation organizations have gone a step further. They have suggested that Americans do not purchase any Norwegian or Japanese products.

17. a. What are three products the United States imports from Japan or Norway?
- A.
  - B.
  - C.
- b. Do you own any of the products you listed? If so, which ones?
- c. How might not buying Japanese or Norwegian products stop these nations from whaling?

As people discuss these plans, other economic factors are assuming an important role. Whale watching began in Japan in 1988. The number of passengers on whale watching boats has almost doubled every year since. The money the boat operators, marina operators, and hotels make from whale watchers has also almost doubled every year. In 1992, more than 19,000 people went whale watching in Japan. They spent a staggering 1,014,900,000 yen (about 9.5 million dollars). At the 1993 IWC conference in Japan conservationists noted that “IWC manages whales for the entire world, and it should now consider the importance and the value of whales alive. World-wide, whale watching, not whaling, is the most pervasive use of whales today”.

18. How might managing whale populations for whale watching hold promise for their long term survival?

19. It has been said that whales are an indicator of the health of the world's living systems. What do you think is meant by this statement?



## Protecting Whales - Causes and Effects

The Times headline read “BRIDGE FALLS AFTER RAMMING BY FREIGHTER!” This statement gives us a lot of information. It tells us what happened (the bridge fell). It also tells us what caused the event (ramming by a freighter). The headline is an example of a cause and effect statement. The cause was the ramming by a freighter. The effect was the falling of the bridge. The effect is what happens because of the cause.

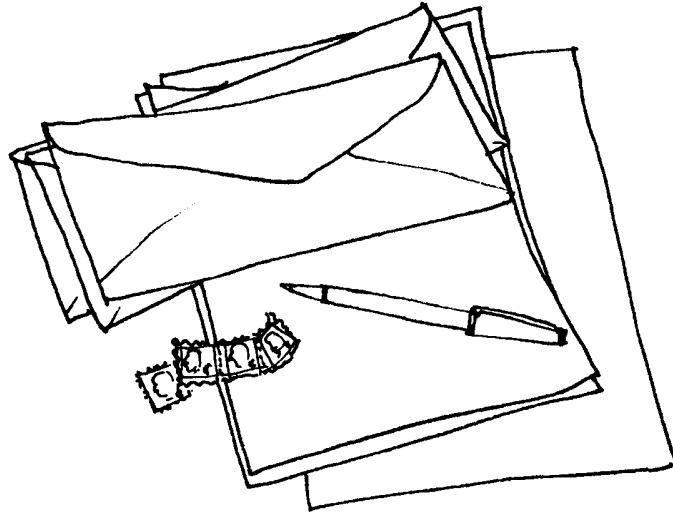
Below you will see two lists. The list on the left shows some causes related to whaling. The list on the right shows some effects resulting from the causes. Connect the effect with its cause by writing the letter of the effect in the blank in front of the cause. The first one is done for you.

<u>Causes</u>	<u>Effects</u>
<u>C</u> 1. Pennsylvania oil wells produced kerosene.	A. The International Whaling Commission was created.
_ 2. Svend Foyn built the first steam powered whaler.	B. By 1925, only 9 humpback whale could be found to kill.
_ 3. Svend Foyn pumped compressed air into dead whales.	C. Whale oil was replaced as a fuel for lamps.
_ 4. Svend Foyn’s whaling techniques were very successful.	D. The rorqual whales which sink after death could be hunted.
_ 5. Krill reproduce explosively.	E. Many whales face extinction.
_ 6. Whalers in the Antarctic picked the humpback whale.	F. The fast swimming rorqual whales could be chased.
_ 7. Whalers killed all of the whales that bred near Antarctic shore stations.	G. Groups have placed economic and political pressure on whaling countries.
_ 8. Marine scientists predicted that the whale would soon become extinct.	H. Protection for the various species of whales has come too little and too late.
_ 9. IWC decisions are based on the opinions of the member nations.	I. By 1903, the blue whale was rarely found in the North Atlantic.
_ 10. Many people feel that the IWC alone cannot save the whales.	J. Factory ships were developed to accompany the fleet into the Antarctic Ocean.
_ 11. Whales are leaving the sea in tanks, cans and sacks.	K. Whales that fed on krill were very numerous.

## WRITE LETTERS TO PROTECT WHALES!

Writing letters is important. Letters can affect how decisions are made about issues. Your letters can help protect whales. But what should you write about? And, to whom do you write?

Here are some places to begin. First, find out about current issues by reading newspapers and magazines. The articles often mention the names of the people involved. Write to them with your opinions and suggestions.



What about current policies on whaling? You may be interested in contacting the IWC at:

The Red House; Station Road; Histon, Cambridge CB4 4NP; United Kingdom

Ask for a copy of the synopsis of the most recent meeting of the International Whaling Commission.

What is the current U.S. policy on whaling? You can find out from:

Secretary of State, Department of State; Washington, D.C. 20520

Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration U.S. Department of Commerce; Washington, D.C. 20230

You may have concerns about what you hear from these individuals. If you do, you may wish to write them about your concerns. Each year a delegation from the U.S. goes to the International Whaling Commission meetings. Many times a year trade negotiations are transacted. Elected and appointed officials need to be aware of public concern for whaling. Then they can continue to take the American point of view to these transactions.

You can also write to organizations to find out about the issues. For a start, try writing:

The Humane Society of the United States  
2100 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037

Ask for their Commercial Whaling Information Kit. Also ask for their Fact Sheet “Help Keep Whales and Dolphins Free”. The sheet contains information about whales and dolphins.

Here are some pointers on letter writing. First, write a rough draft of your letter. Then, share it with others for their opinions and suggestions. Proofread and revise your letter very carefully.

Now you’re ready for the final copy. Copy your final draft as neatly as you can. Your letter may be hand written, typed or word processed. It doesn’t matter as long as it is neat, brief, and polite. Be sure to include your address. The person you write may wish to write back.

These letters to protect whales are important. Why not design and copy your own stationery (paper for letters)?

Don’t think letters do any good? Candid government officials will tell you they read and count letters. They feel if one person actually takes the time to sit down and write, a thousand people must have similar feelings. The single, most effective, direct action is letter writing.