

ECOTOURISM: THE IMPACT ON WILDLIFE

Introduction

Despite our urban demographics, a rugged, wild landscape has always been part of the Canadian heritage and identity. And now tourist operators around the world are taking a new look at our wilderness areas and recommending Canada as a niche market for adventure travellers, or "ecotourists" as they are often called. Ecotourism is one of the fastest-growing sectors of tourism today, worth an estimated \$200-billion (U.S.) in the United States alone, and another \$400-million (Canadian) in Canada, about 10 percent of our total tourist revenue. More than 10 000 Canadian jobs rely on the industry. There are those in the industry who feel that this particular market has great potential for growth and that there is plenty of wilderness to go around. Travel agents are selling Canada as an undiscovered wilderness, with everything from white-water rafting to whale watching. It's also an attractive alternative to adventure destinations in regions of the world that might not be as safe or as politically stable as Canada.

But tourism, especially ecotourism, always has its drawbacks. Whenever humans come into contact with wildlife, there is an effect. Whale watching is increasing in popularity on both the east and west coasts of Canada. The increased motorized boat traffic, however, is having a negative effect on the whales because they are highly susceptible to noise pollution. Banff National Park in Alberta is bursting at the seams. The demand for more commercial development there to accommodate growing numbers of tourists is increasing, and yet bears, which are native to the area, are humanely destroyed frequently because they have become a "menace" to humans in the park. In many other regions of the world, wealthy travellers pay large sums of money to view the natural resources of nations, often poorer nations in need of foreign capital to provide their own people with the essentials of life.

Determining where there should be no tourism, where there should be some carefully controlled tourism, and where there is already too much tourism is a complex question. Whereas exploiting a wilderness for its beauty may be preferable to cutting down its trees or removing all its wildlife for human consumption, there is still a substantial cost. Maintaining a balance between protecting the wilderness and creating access to its natural beauty is also not easy. Increased public awareness of such areas can actually result in invasive human activity.

Canada has so many wilderness areas that this resource seems limitless. But there are always limits to any resource, as history has clearly shown—whether it be the great auk, the passenger pigeon, or the northern cod. One might ask how we can possibly ruin such a seemingly limitless wilderness, but we only have to consider the cod, which in recent times were in endless supply off the Grand Banks, or the buffalo that once roamed the Prairies in abundance. Human intervention in wildlife areas has often been disastrous for species being hunted, fished, or trapped.

Canadians enjoy a strong economy based on a number of vital industries, and one of these industries is tourism, which currently is in a significant growth period. Tourism brings large numbers of people and foreign currency into our country, increasing our economic growth. It is hoped, however, that the relatively new industry of ecotourism, in co-operation with governments and Canadians as a whole, will learn from the lessons of the past and proceed with care in the expansion of this burgeoning market.

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Comprehensive News in Review Study Modules

Using both the print and non-print material from various issues of **News in Review**, teachers and students can create comprehensive, thematic modules that are excellent for research purposes, independent assignments, and small group study. We recommend the stories indicated below for the universal issues they represent and for the archival and historic material they contain.

"The Bay Stops Selling Fur," March 1991

"Clayoquot Sound: The Sound and the Fury," October 1993

"Forest Fires: Fighting Nature," September 1994

"The Seal Hunt: A New Uproar," April 1996

"The Disappearing Forest," December 1997

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The Costa Rica Show

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Freeman Patterson In Close-Up

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National Parks: Forever Wild?

Roger Tory Peterson: Portrait of a Birdwatcher

Yellowstone to Yukon: The Wild Heart of North America

Watching Birds



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Watching

Humans are highly visual and curious beings. Although other species see better than we do in certain circumstances—in the dark for instance, through peripheral vision, or underwater—the human sense of sight and our ability to observe the world around us have evolved in such a way as to combine the best of the visual skills of a number of species. Our particular vision has given us an advantage over many of them. We can see colour, change our depth of focus, correct our vision through elementary technology such as eyeglasses, and extend our vision through even more advanced technology like binoculars, telescopes, and satellites. And we have the ability to enhance our vision by changing our point of view and perspective, by simply standing on two legs, by moving quickly, by travelling great distances. Human beings are excellent watchers. But just as there is an essential qualitative difference between "hearing" and "listening," there is a similar difference between "watching" and "seeing." With these concepts in mind, proceed as follows.

A First Look

During the viewing of this **News in Review** report, watch carefully so that you can discuss answers to the following.

1. What are the reactions of the tourists in this video? Describe in detail their behaviour. How do they react physically, verbally, and emotionally? Do they display particular gestures that you find particularly "human" or interesting? Do they use words or expressions that describe effectively their feelings about what they are seeing? How would you describe the overall reaction of these people?

2. What are the reactions of the scientists? To what extent do these people display similar or different behaviour patterns from the tourists? To what extent do you

feel they react more rationally and less emotionally than the tourists? To what extent, perhaps, do emotions play an equal role in how they are "viewing" this news story?

3. What was your reaction?

Try to recall in detail precisely what you saw, heard, and felt. What did you think as you watched these other two groups and as you watched this news story? To what extent do you describe yourself as an active viewer and listener? To what extent do you think you and/or your classmates were simply "television tourists"?

A Second Look

After watching this **News in Review** report again, discuss as a class answers to the following questions.

1. What are the concerns about ecotourism that are expressed in this news story? Are there other related concerns not shown or mentioned in the video you know about?

2. How is whale watching different from observing animals in zoos? How is it the same?

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A Closer Look at the Whale

Because so many species of whales have been on the endangered species list, and also because of the popularity of marine parks, there has been an increased awareness of whales in recent years. The following information is a short introduction to this unique mammal. As you read, make a list of the characteristics of whales that make them particularly vulnerable to contact with humans.

A Water Mammal

There are 79 known species of whales, dolphins, and porpoises, which collectively belong to the order *Cetacea*. They are the only mammals to live entirely in water throughout their whole life cycle. Like most fish, whales propel themselves with a broad horizontal tail fluke. Unlike fish, whales breathe using lungs, inhaling and exhaling through their blow hole. The spout visible to the observer is not water, but vapour from the lungs and the small amount of water that collects around the blowhole.

Despite their need to be near the surface to breathe air, whales are capable of deep-water dives. Their unique physiology allows them to do this. First, they have a larger blood volume than land mammals of similar size and weight and also greater capacity to store oxygen in their blood and muscle tissue. As well, the lungs of a whale give them 80 to 90 per cent renewal of air, whereas land mammals have only 10 to 20 per cent. They also have greater resistance to carbon dioxide, the by-product of breathing. Finally, whales have the ability to restrict blood flow to some body organs, ensuring that essential organs like the brain and the heart do not suffer from lack of oxygen. Some species of whales have been seen diving to depths of 450 metres and can remain underwater for up to 75 minutes.

Like land mammals, whales mate through copulation,

following a period of courtship. The gestation period can range from nine to 16 months, and calves are born underwater. They swim at birth and nurse from their mother for up to two years. Some species continue to live in family groups called pods.

Whales use their sense of hearing to locate objects in the water. They produce two types of sounds: echolocation clicks and vocalizations. Echolocation serves as a sort of sonar system, and the vocalizations are how they communicate with each other. These vocalizations can be highly specialized; for example, each orca pod has its own special dialect, which is so distinct that scientists can use it to identify a pod.

Whales are extremely intelligent, and their capacity to learn and play has made them popular creatures in captivity. They mature sexually between the ages of six and 13 and have a life span of 30 to 80 years, depending on the species. Their thick layer of blubber, which helps to keep them buoyant, preserves body heat and stores energy. It has also been a highly marketable commodity throughout history. For this reason they have been hunted extensively. Many species are endangered, but because of their nomadic nature it is difficult to estimate precisely how many whales there are.

Toothed Whales

There are two types of whales. The smaller ones, including dolphins and porpoises, belong to the suborder *Odontoceti*, the toothed whales. Those longer than five metres are called whales, and the smaller ones are called dolphins or porpoises. The sperm whale is one of the larger of the toothed whales. Toothed whales have uniform teeth or can be toothless, and they feed on fish, squid, and crustaceans. One of these species, the orca, feeds on seabirds and marine mammals as well.

Orcas have long been called killer whales because they are known to eat dolphins and seals. But increasing knowledge of this whale's social tendencies and its popularity in aquariums, where its natural "playing" behaviour is observed, have changed the initial perceptions. They are the largest of the dolphin family and the largest toothed whale. Orcas are found around the world, but live predominately in the Pacific Northwest. Some groups live solely on salmon, while others feed on seal alone. They grow up to 10 metres in length and can weigh up to nine tons.

Orcas have a complex sociological nature, living in family

groups, called pods, of six to 50 whales. Up to three generations of one family can be represented in a pod. Most of what scientists know about orcas is the result of studies of the species in the Pacific Northwest. One of the orca's many migration routes is the Queen Charlotte and Johnstone straits, also a popular route for cruise ships.

The beluga whale is closely related to the dolphin. Belugas are toothed whales that are born black or dark brown and turn white at about five years of age. They have a uniquely rounded head and no dorsal fin. Males are as long as 5.5 metres, and females slightly smaller. They travel in schools of several hundred and live in an area ranging from the Arctic Ocean to the St. Lawrence River. They are the most vocal of toothed whales, communicating with trills, moos, clicks, squeaks, and twitters. This has led to their nickname, the sea canary.

Baleen Whales

The larger baleen whales belong to the suborder Mysticeti. There are 10 species in this group, and instead of teeth they have baleen plates, which hang from the upper jaw like vertical venetian blinds. The whale feeds on plankton or krill, which are captured by these baleen plates as the whale swims with its mouth open. The whale then closes its mouth and presses its tongue against the back of the baleen plates, thus forcing the water out of its mouth but trapping the plankton behind the baleen plates. Baleen whales live in the polar regions during the summer and migrate to temperate or tropical zones in the winter, where they often fast for several months at a time. The largest of the baleen whales, and the largest animal on the planet, is the blue whale. There have been blue whales sighted that measure up to 30.5 metres in length.

The grey whale is the first of the larger whales to be removed from the endangered species list. It is unique among baleen whales in that it lives in shallow water. Some 50 individual animals have been identified off its traditional range on the British Columbia coast. They used to live in both the North Atlantic and the North Pacific but are now extinct in the Atlantic and live mostly along the North American coast as far north as the Bering Sea. Sightings have occurred off the Korean coast, but are rare.

The eastern Pacific or California grey whale migrates each year from its winter breeding grounds along Mexico to its summer feeding grounds along the North American coast and farther north in the Bering and Chukchi seas. This is one of the longest migrations of any mammal on earth. Commercial whaling of the grey whale was prohibited in

1946, and since then its population has increased from several thousand to almost 18 000. The grey whale is a bottom feeder. It lies on its side, sucking in mouthfuls of sand and mud, which it then squirts out through its baleen filters, retaining in its mouth food such as shrimp. Because they are shallow-water whales, whale-sized "bites" can be seen in the sand at low tide.

Humpback whales can be distinguished by their long flippers and knobby heads and can measure up to 15 metres in length. Humpbacks were once the most numerous large whales in the world. In 1966 they were declared an endangered species, and now there are fewer than 5000 whales in each of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Like the grey whale, humpbacks have a summer feeding ground in the north and a winter breeding ground in the tropics. The North Pacific humpback, for example, feeds all along the North American coast up to Alaska and through the northern Pacific. Its winter grounds are concentrated off the Mexican coast, near Hawaii, and in the South Pacific. They are slowly returning to their traditional range off the coast of British Columbia, including Queen Charlotte Sound. Some 20 individual animals have been identified in that area.

Humpbacks feed on plankton, krill, and small fish such as herring. They are known for their spectacular acrobatics, such as breaching, and for their haunting whale songs, some as long as 15 minutes. These are "sung" by lone adult males, and some scientists believe they are a way of displaying dominance.

Whale Searches

Choose one of the species mentioned in this reading, and research it further. Investigate the long-term effects on the animal of human interaction. Include any data you can find about population numbers before and after the peak of commercial whaling in the 19th century, as well as any change in recent behaviour of humans toward the species.

A Marine Habitat

Obtain a copy of the video and resource guide for *The Mighty River*, a CBC/Société Radio-Canada production and a superb animated film by Frédéric Back. You may find it in your media collection or you may contact Colette Forest, Radio-Canada, 1400, boul. René Lévesque Est, Montréal, QC H2L 2M2. Tel: (514) 597-7826 Fax: (514) 597-7862. This film portrays one of Canada's most important marine habitats, especially that of the beluga.

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A Booming Business

Ecotourism, once considered a fringe element of the tourist industry, is fast becoming big business. Whereas ecotourists have traditionally been educated males with above-average incomes and very adept at meeting the challenges of adventure travel, that demographic and description are changing. While still tending to be educated and with higher incomes, today's ecotourists are equally distributed among men and women, usually childless couples between the ages of 25 and 54. Most of them are also urban dwellers, with a higher percentage coming from the west coast of North America.

The preferred destinations are also changing. While Central and South America continue to be the leading choice of adventure travellers, with Africa and Asia tied for second place, Canada is increasingly being sold as an accessible choice for adventure travel. British Columbia is becoming the premier destination in this country. Canada's increasing market share of the ecotourism industry reflects a shift away from physically strenuous and challenging adventure vacations requiring endurance skills to simpler and more comfortable vacations where the clients can still enjoy the scenery and experience nature, particularly wildlife.

But if baby boomers are no longer climbing mountains, many still want to participate in a vacation with meaning, working ecotours, or "adventure travel with a conscience," as some are calling it. The clients' participation helps fund research projects, while essentially they provide volunteer labour while viewing and studying the environment first-hand. In exchange, they receive an experiential education and work alongside scientists prominent in their fields. Accommodation still tends to be spartan, and since the work requires more than the average physical effort, it is therefore still not a vacation for the sedentary individual.

The organizations outlined below are some examples of the types of choices available to today's ecotourists. As you read this information, note the different approach taken by each organization. Also be prepared to suggest what you think the different effects each tour could have on the animals being studied.

Earthwatch

Earthwatch Institute, based in Massachusetts, is an international non-profit organization founded in 1971 that funds scientific research around the globe. Its mission is to "build a sustainable world through an active partnership between scientist and citizen."

Volunteers sign up for a project for one to three weeks. These projects are divided into seven areas of focus: oceans, forests, biodiversity, cultural diversity, learning from the past, monitoring global change, and health. In 1999 alone, 145 projects will take place in 51 countries, ranging from observing elephant behaviour and their impact on vegetation in Africa, to gathering data on leatherback turtle nesting in Costa Rica, to counting grizzlies in Glacier National Park in the United States. Since Earthwatch's inception, it has been involved in over 1500 projects in 118 countries, and more than 50 000 volunteers have participated. In addition to their volunteer labour, participants pay a fee to participate and thus help fund the projects.

Coastal Ecosystem Research Foundation (CERF)

Coastal Ecosystem Research Foundation (CERF) is a non-profit organization based in Vancouver that concentrates on the study of whales along British Columbia's central coast. Its mission is to fund ecological research through ecotourism. Volunteers, limited to five per group, participate for a week and work aboard a 12-metre research vessel. Accommodations are spartan; participants camp on the beach. CERF's scientists are qualified marine biologists.

In 1999, CERF will concentrate its research on grey whales—recently removed from the endangered species list—by looking at where and for how long the animals feed, what they feed on, and how they interact with each other and their habitat. The study area is an 80-kilometre stretch on the mainland side of Queen Charlotte Sound.

Conservation Corporation of Africa

Ecotourism is Africa's fastest growing business, and Conservation Corporation of Africa (Conscorp) is exploiting this market and, ironically, taking advantage of the old colonial custom of seeing wildlife while being waited on

hand and foot. There is, however, a distinct difference from colonial times. Conscorp hires local people, not just to clean rooms and wait on tables, but to build the lodges themselves. Then the corporation buys locally produced food to feed the tourists and locally produced crafts to sell in its shops, thus further developing the local economy. The company hopes to promote local pride in the ecotourism industry in an effort to cut down on poaching and negative reaction to the industry.

A day spent at Conscorp is a full one. Guests rise at five in the morning to participate in a three-hour drive looking for game. They then breakfast and spend the rest of the morning around a pool. Lunch is followed by a bush walk, and then, after cocktails, there is a four-hour drive in the evening during which tourists accompanied by guides search for animals by spotlight.

Conscorp's rangers are well-trained experts and professionals. As a role model for a modern corporation that makes the best use of local resources, the company originated with one lodge in South Africa and now has a chain of 22 lodges across the continent. It is hoping to expand to Brazil, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Conscorp lodges are small and exclusive, with accommodation for only up to 40 people. "Rooms" consist of individual cabins or tents. Because of the high cost of its packages, Conscorp continues to attract more Europeans and North Americans than Africans.

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The Banff Example

The best argument against the expansion of ecotourism is that its growing success is a threat to the environment on which it is based. Nowhere is this more evident than in busy national parks like Banff National Park in Alberta, established in 1885, or Yellowstone National Park, in Wyoming, which was established in 1872. The reasons for creating these parks were well-intentioned in that it was hoped that cordoning them off as a protected area would help maintain both the natural ecosystem and encroaching settlement. The actual results in the long term, however, are debatable.

Read the following information and then, making reference to information in the passage, prepare an oral written response to: "The best method of conservation is to stay at home."

Banff, Alberta

Banff National Park, located in the Rocky Mountains of Alberta, is a designated UNESCO World Heritage site. Located within its borders are significant wildlife populations, but the interaction between animal and human is an increasing problem. The Trans-Canada Highway runs through the middle of the park, as does the Canadian Pacific Railway. Banff National Park has three resorts, a major golf course currently undergoing expansion plans, the two commercial centres of Banff and Lake Louise, and a tourist infrastructure of 3600 hotel rooms, 2500 campsites, 125 restaurants, and 200 retail outlets. The current permanent population of the park is 8000 people, a number that surges during peak seasons to cater to the more than four million visitors each year. It is estimated that Banff's tourism is worth \$500-million per year.

Banff is subject to frequent chinook winds that provide a favourable winter climate for animals. As well, it is a major

migration corridor for many species of bear, hoofed animals, and birds. Visitors to the park are often treated to sights of elk or bighorn sheep right along the highway, but this kind of animal viewing poses risks to both animals and humans. When collisions occur, the animal is almost always killed, and the vehicle usually receives thousands of dollars of damage. As well, the amount of garbage near the commercial centres and campgrounds has long attracted bears who, becoming too used to humans, become a danger to the public and must be relocated at considerable cost or destroyed.

Banff's future is an ongoing battle between conservationists and developers. In the Federal Court of Canada, environmentalists are trying to have a \$45-million convention centre expansion scheduled for Lake Louise cancelled. All commercial growth is regulated and controlled, but as any visitor to the park can see, a hundred years of visitors has taken its toll. Opponents of development being considered in other wilderness areas point to Banff as an argument against increased commercial growth.

Vancouver Island

In regions hard hit by recession, however, the chance to turn natural beauty into economic gain is hard to refuse. Ucluelet, a town of 1800 people on the west coast of Vancouver Island, is one such example. It has recently lost 500 forestry jobs and 300 fishing jobs. But plans for a 14-kilometre Wild Pacific trail to link it with Pacific Rim National Park and Long Beach are currently underway to boost the local tourist industry and keep up with the demand for adventure tourism. Also underway is the \$60-million Reef Point Adventure Station, a 24-hectare resort just south of the Pacific Rim Park. A 20-unit Roots lodge, scheduled to open in March 1999, and a 100-room Coast Hotel are part of the resort. Seventy of the Coast Hotels rental cottages have been presold, about three quarters to Vancouver-area residents, 10 percent to people from the U.S., and the rest to international buyers.

The region is a popular one—one million visitors come every year to the Tofino-Ucluelet area. Adventure activities such as whale watching, fishing, scuba diving, heli-skiing, heli-snowboarding, surfing, and sea kayaking are all popular. In 1997, British Columbia's ecotourism industry generated \$892-million in revenue and employed 13 000 people. As jobs are lost daily in the natural resources sector, these figures are hard to ignore. But up until now, tourists have mainly been North Americans. The European and Asian markets have not been tapped, and much

growth is expected if this market can be accessed. The plan is to make this region British Columbia's premier destination resort.

The commercialism is obvious: the Roots lodge will include a store selling its clothing and related products. Marshall Myles, vice-president of Roots Canada, says that the activities planned for the new park will reflect the Toronto-based retailer's product lines: "When you think of anything from rollerblading to hiking to storm watching and whale watching, you're going to wear a Roots product."

But there are some who aren't quite as excited about the potential changes. Residents of Kyuquot, a small fishing village farther up Vancouver Island's west coast, which can only be reached by plane or boat, are unsure about the benefits of large-scale tourism. It is a small place—half its residents are descended from Scandinavian fishermen, the rest are part of the Nuu-Chah-Nulth First Nations reserve. Both groups fear the loss of their traditional way of life. It is only one example of a unique West Coast village that has a particular way of life that does not embrace the hard-core commercialism of a resort such as that being developed to the south. Because of its isolation, it is unlikely that the effects of that commercial development will reach it. But any of the first residents of Banff might have said the same thing, a hundred years ago.

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The Makah Whale Hunt

Whales are a popular subject these days, as a result of films such as *Free Willy*, which have created awareness of the effects of keeping wild animals in captivity, or as a result of statistical studies that point out how many are on the endangered species list. For centuries, whales were the victims of an international whaling industry that decimated their numbers. And because they are such rare creatures, any threat to their existence makes headlines.

Recently the Makah Nation of Washington state started a public outcry when it announced its intent to resume hunting whales. Read the information presented below, then proceed to the activities that follow.

The Makah Nation

The Makah Nation, numbering 1800 people, lives on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington state. For centuries they have lived off the abundance of food provided by their ocean home—whales and seals and fish. Today, commercial fishing provides them with their economic base, but they are unique in that they are the only Native American tribe with the right guaranteed by a treaty signed in 1855 to hunt whales. The Makah Nation stopped whaling in the 1920s because of the scarcity of the grey whale. However, in 1994, this species was taken off the endangered list, and at that time the Makah Nation began preparing once again to take up whaling. They had planned to begin the hunt in the fall of 1998, but bad weather and their own realization that they were not properly trained forced them to halt the hunt.

The Makah Nation has been dependent on the ocean for its existence for thousands of years. An archeological dig conducted in 1970 confirmed the importance of whaling to the nation's traditional way of life with the discovery of thousands of artifacts. The Makah feel that current health

problems among their people are possibly the result of the loss of their traditional diet, which always included whale meat. Health concerns, along with the restoration of national pride in their young people, are reasons they want to once again take up whaling.

The hunt will be conducted in the traditional manner using sea canoes with crews of eight or nine whalers per canoe. But in keeping with International Whaling Commission requirements concerning humane methods, they will use stainless steel harpoons and a specially designed rifle to be fired at the same time as the harpoon. This rifle was designed with the help of a veterinarian from the University of Maryland and is expected to immediately render the whale unconscious or kill it. After the whale's death, Makah divers will tie the jaw shut to prevent the animal from sinking. It will then be towed to shore, beached, and carved and distributed according to traditional Makah practice. There will be no commercial sale of whale meat, since it is prohibited by federal law. The Makah nation intends to hunt the grey whale for their members' own consumption only, and will only sell artifacts made by Makah whale-bone carvers.

The Makah are permitted to capture five whales a year, but intend to take a maximum of four per year and may only take one. The hunt will be limited to migrating adults of the eastern Pacific or California grey whale and will not present any danger to the existence of this species. Scientists estimate that the grey whale population, at over 22 000, now exceeds the population of the species before commercial whaling began. Currently, Russian aborigines hunt 165 grey whales a year.

The decision of the Makah nation to resume whaling, which was supported in a 1995 tribal referendum, created a public outcry, not unlike that heard as a result of the seal hunt in Newfoundland. Several animal-rights groups have established formal protests over the whale hunt, generating a lot of publicity and increasing outrage at the Makah Nation.

Discussion

1. The Sea Shepherd organization claims that if the Makah Nation begins hunting the grey whale, it will devastate the whale-watching industry of the state of Washington. Discuss whether you think this is a valid reason for not allowing the Makah to hunt whales.

2. In a letter printed in the *Seattle Times* newspaper in

August 1998, the president of the Makah Whaling Commission states that people have been romanticizing the whale by ascribing human characteristics to it. (This is known as anthropomorphism.) He describes the public's fascination with whales and how whales are currently "in." He then says: "The world has had a similar fascination with us [aboriginal people] and our cultures, but whenever we had something you wanted or did something you didn't like, you tried to impose your values on us." If you were writing a letter to the editor of the Seattle Times in response to this statement, how would you respond? Write the actual letter and then share it with your classmates.

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The Whaling Industry

Humanity has been a threat to the whale for a long time, long before whale watching became fashionable. Since prehistoric times, whales have been hunted for food and oil, predominately by Norse, Basque, English, Dutch, American, Norwegian, Japanese, and Russian whalers. As whale stock died out or was depleted, the whalers moved on to new territory. They followed a path that originated off the coasts of France and Spain, to the coast of Newfoundland in the 16th and 17th century, to Greenland and the Davis Strait in the 19th century.

American whaling peaked in 1846, when 70 000 people were employed in the industry. But the industry began to decline, not only because of diminishing whale stock, but because kerosene was introduced and was a much cheaper fuel than whale oil. U.S. whaling stopped in 1928. Norway then became the leader of whaling nations until it stopped in 1969. The last remaining whaling nations, Japan and Russia, agreed to a world-wide whaling ban in the late 1980s. However, Norway began whaling again in 1992.

The International Whaling Commission was established in 1946 as a voluntary association of 24 nations involved in whaling. They regulated whaling by establishing geographical limitations, prohibiting the capture of specific species, protecting immature and nursing whales, and limiting the operations of certain types of ships. However, while the commission had considerable powers to monitor and observe whaling, it did not have the power to charge and prosecute violators.

Activities

1. Using the above information as a point of departure and a focus, research the history of Canadian whalers in order to answer the following questions:
 - (a) What species were predominately hunted?

- (b) When was the last whale hunt in Canadian waters?
(c) What was the effect of the discontinuation of the whale hunt on fishing communities?

2. Obtain the video and resource guide for "The Seal Hunt: A New Uproar" in the April 1996 issue of **News in Review**. Using this resource draw comparisons between the 19th-century whale hunt and today's seal hunt off Newfoundland. What are the similarities and the differences?

3. Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* is a classic in American literature. Read this novel and prepare an oral or written report.

4. Obtain a copy of the children's song "Baby Beluga." Listen carefully to the words and suggest how they would make young children aware of this particular mammal. In your opinion, do such children's songs accurately portray such species or do they encourage people to indulge in anthropomorphism and consequently underestimate the scientific importance of the species.

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ECOTOURISM: THE IMPACT ON WILDLIFE

Discussion, Research, and Essay Questions

1. There is a campaign underway to urge the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre to free its remaining orca, Bjossa, and allow her to join Keiko, star of the movie *Free Willy*. Keiko is now in a sea pen in Iceland. The aquarium has been looking for a replacement for its male orca, which died a year ago. But orcas have not been captured since 1976, and finding new orcas for aquariums is becoming more and more difficult. Discuss the benefits and disadvantages of marine parks. What should the Vancouver Aquarium do?

 2. EcoNETT is an important organization dedicated to ecological studies. The organization can be explored through its Web site at www.wttc.org. Access this site to find out how you can participate in eco-research.

3. The St. Lawrence River belugas have such high amounts of chemicals in their bodies that they are disposed of as toxic waste after they die. Research the beluga whale to find out what other threats it faces in addition to chemical wastes and whale watching.

4. Costa Rica is a popular destination for ecotourism; however, it may become the victim of its own success. Research this country and find out what risks the country faces as a result of ecotourism and the choices it must make in order to limit the negative effects of the ecotourism industry.

 5. Earthwatch and CERF can be accessed via their Web sites at www.earthwatch.org and www.cerf.bc.ca.

Investigate the adventure packages offered by these organizations and write a summary of the different choices available to ecotourists today.

➤ 6. Research the closest National Park to the region in which you live. When was it established and why? Is tourism a threat to the future of the park? What other concerns does the park face?

7. Understanding news stories involves understanding concepts. Conceptualizing requires such "thinking" skills and activities as reflecting, reasoning, remembering, supposing, envisioning, conceiving, judging, concluding, and imagining. Although all these verbs may in some senses be synonymous and are certainly related, collectively they suggest the nature of conceptualizing. With this preliminary information in mind, express in your own words the importance and implications to this story of the concepts that lie at the heart of the following elements: human industry; equilibrium; experiential learning; habitation; wilderness; the exponential effect; why we study animal behaviour; why we study human behaviour; anthropomorphism; zones; "from Las Vegas to the Amazon."

➤ 8. This news story concentrates on one geographic location where animal and humans interact and the negative results that can occur. Identify and research another location in which ecotourism is negatively affecting an animal population and report your findings to the class.

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