

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

Weekly Reading HW

HW Wk _____

Directions: Read and annotate the passage below. Then answer the questions.

Swimming with Gentle Giants, part 2

Hawaii hosts approximately 50 percent of the North Pacific stock of humpback whales because of conservation efforts. In the late 1970s, the number of humpback whales visiting waters in Hawaii had dropped to as low as 200 to 300 each year and the population looked to be inevitably bound for extinction. But the ban on commercial whaling in 1986, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the establishment of protected marine sanctuaries, and also the timely increase in environmental awareness and appreciation, have brought humpback whales back from the brink. They are still listed as an endangered species, but most populations are now increasing around the globe.

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is the perfect example of the ecosystem funds that can be generated by a healthy local whale population. Over the course of the winter, 9,000 to 11,000 humpback whales may use the waters of Hawaii as their wintertime home, with newly born calves of the year consisting of some 10 percent of this population. The coastal waters of the sanctuary bring more than 200,000 whale-watching visitors a year and \$85 million annually to the local economy.

But all may not be well in paradise. The coastal regions of Hawaii are becoming more and more urbanized because whale-watching companies are switching to larger vessels, and shoreline land is transitioning from agriculture to housing. Typically, within the breeding grounds, mothers with young calves favor shallow coastline areas. These areas offer the new moms some respite from overly aggressive male whales that are more common in the deeper areas. However recent research suggests that females and their young calves are moving away from the shoreline toward the deeper waters. The cost of this move has yet to be calculated. But as any good behavioral scientist will tell you, there is usually a cause for habitat shifts, and all too often there may be a consequence. Which brings me to the key question I hope to answer this season: For maternal females in Hawaiian waters, is there a cost to this offshore switch?

For now, I'm pretty much mesmerized by the mother and her calf below me. I swim slightly toward mom, reminding myself that there must be good reasons we call these animals gentle giants. As I watch the mother maneuver around her calf, she turns slightly to place me in her clearest line of sight, off to her side. The pair pauses as they swim leisurely by; two large eyes slowly inspect me. Then, with a mere movement of her tail, I'm left bobbing alone, wondering exactly who was watching who?

1. (RST.9-10.1) According to the passage, which of the following is NOT listed as one of the reasons why the humpback population has increased?
 - a. A ban on commercial whaling
 - b. A decrease in pollution in the waters where whales breed
 - c. A development of protected marine areas
 - d. An increase in environmental awareness and appreciation for wildlife

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2. (RST.9-10.1) The author’s purpose in writing, “But all may not be well in paradise” in the third paragraph is to:
- a. Show how much money whale watching has contributed to the local economy.
 - b. Illustrate the effects of whale watching and urbanization on females and their calves.
 - c. Justify the use of larger vessels and increased shoreline housing in Hawaii.
 - d. Explain that the humpback whales are still on the endangered species list.
3. (RST.9-10.4) As it is used in the passage, the term *respite* has the same meaning as:
- a. Hatred
 - b. Pleasure
 - c. Relief
 - d. Respect
4. (RST.9-10.2) Which of the following descriptions most accurately and completely represents the passage?
- a. Migratory humpback whales use the waters around Hawaii as their breeding grounds which attracts tourists and helps the local Hawaiian economy.
 - b. Humpback whale populations were dangerously small but have now rebounded thanks to a number of different efforts.
 - c. Although humpback whale populations have become more healthy, the change in habitat of females and their calves concerns the narrator, and is the subject of her research.
 - d. Scientists, like the narrator, are mesmerized at the majestic beauty of the female humpback whales and their calves.

5. (RST.9-10.1) Why do females and their calves favor the shoreline as opposed to deeper waters?

6. (RST.9-10.1) What are some of the reasons the author lists as to why the females and young calves are moving away from the shoreline?

Adapted from the article, “Swimming with Gentle Giants” by Rachel Cartwright for the New York Times, on Feb. 11, 2013.