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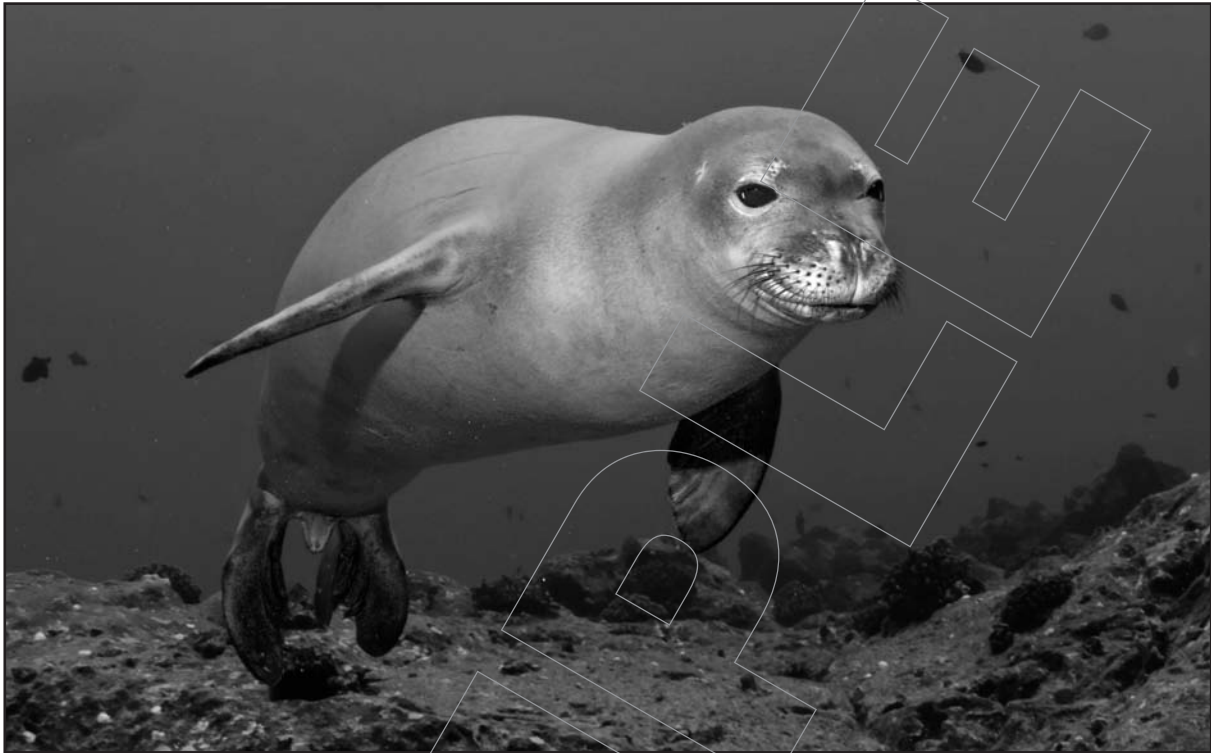
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This story is about a mammal that lives in the ocean. Read the story. Then answer the questions that follow.



Meet the Monk Seal

The Hawaiians gave it a name that meant “dog that runs in rough waters.” It looks a little like a dog, but it isn’t. It’s a Hawaiian monk seal, and it doesn’t live anywhere but Hawaii. And it doesn’t migrate either. Why would it want to leave Hawaii?

A monk seal weighs about 500 pounds and is 7 to 9 feet long. It likes to eat fish and lobsters. It can stay underwater for 15 to 20 minutes, and it doesn’t need to come up for air because it can slow down its heartbeat. A slower heartbeat means it needs less air.

A mother monk seal has only one pup at a time. She gives the pup milk for about six weeks and, after that, the pup has to learn to fish. While the pup is nursing, the mother monk seal doesn't eat anything.

There are only about 1,000 monk seals left. It is the most endangered seal in United States waters. Every year, there are fewer monk seals. Sometimes they get caught in fishing nets. Sometimes fishermen catch too many lobsters, and the seals can't get enough to eat.

People used to hunt monk seals for their meat and skins. People don't hunt these animals anymore, but tiger sharks do. Most monk seals have scars left by these sharks, while a good many die from the attacks.

Monk seals stay by themselves. Each one likes to have its own private beach. There, it will lie in the sun and rest. Hawaiian monk seals are cute and friendly. They have always lived on islands with no people, so they never learned to be afraid. A monk seal won't run from you on the beach. It will just lie there. But never bother a monk seal. It needs its rest. If it goes back in the ocean when it is tired, a tiger shark could eat it!





Understanding the Story

It is important to understand what you read. You just read a story about monk seals. Did you read the story carefully? Here are some questions about the story. Read each one. Then fill in the circle beside the best answer. If you are not sure, go back and look at the story again.

1. The word *migrate* means to

- (A) catch lobsters
- (B) breathe underwater
- (C) swim away when you are afraid
- (D) move somewhere else in certain seasons

Critical Reasoning

2. A mother monk seal will

- (A) nurse her baby and not eat anything herself
- (B) find fish for herself and her newborn pup
- (C) not be afraid of tiger sharks
- (D) not be able to swim

Inference

3. How many monk seals are there?

- (A) about 100
- (B) about 1,000
- (C) about 5,000
- (D) about 10,000

Factual

4. To save the monk seal, people should

- (A) make sure the seals don't get caught in fishing nets
- (B) kill all the tiger sharks
- (C) put the monk seals in zoos
- (D) use their skins for coats

Inference

5. If you see a Hawaiian monk seal sleeping on the beach, you should

- (A) keep it wet
- (B) chase it back into the ocean
- (C) stay away from it
- (D) try to feed it

Inference

6. How much does a Hawaiian monk seal weigh?

- (A) more than an elephant
- (B) less than a man
- (C) as much as a big dog
- (D) more than a big dog

Critical Reasoning

7. Why don't people hunt monk seals anymore?

- (A) There are no monk seals left to hunt.
- (B) Hunters can see monk seals in zoos.
- (C) Hunters are afraid of the tiger sharks.
- (D) They no longer need the monk seals for meat and skins.

Critical Reasoning

8. A Hawaiian monk seal can stay underwater for

- (A) 2 to 3 hours
- (B) 1 to 2 hours
- (C) 30 minutes to an hour
- (D) 15 to 20 minutes

Factual

SAMPLE



Summing Up



This story gives you some information about Hawaiian monk seals. It told you some things that monk seals do.



A **chart** is a useful way to sort information. The chart below lists some animals and people from the story. Fill in the boxes. Write some action words that describe what these animals and people do.

Animal/Person	Action
Monk Seal	swims
Monk Seal Pup	
Tiger Shark	
Fisherman	



Write About It

A **sentence** tells a complete idea. It has two parts. One part tells what the sentence is about. This is the **subject**. The subject is usually a noun. The other part of the sentence is the **predicate**. This is usually a verb.

Write your own complete sentences. For each number below, there is a subject and a predicate. Put the words together to make a sentence. You can add extra words to make your sentences more exciting. Use your chart to help you.

1. monk seal swims

The monk seal swims in the ocean.

2. tiger shark eats

3. fishermen catch

4. pups play

5. mothers feed

6. people see

