



TABE 11 & 12 READING PRACTICE ITEMS

READ THE PASSAGE. THEN ANSWER QUESTIONS 1 THROUGH 7.

WHALE WATCHING

Across the blue, rolling waves, a dark hump rises from the sea. It slides out of sight as an enormous tail lifts and falls. As it does, another hump rises beside it and begins the same dance. Several people cheer from the pontoon boat. Some raise their cameras, while others lift binoculars to get a closer view. These whale watchers are getting what they hoped for—a view of gray whales migrating south.

For thousands of years, whales have fascinated humans. However, until recent times, the average person did not have the chance to see these amazing creatures up close. The first opportunity arose in San Diego, California. There, in 1950, the Cabrillo National Monument was declared a public place to watch whales. Soon after, the first whalewatching boats sailed from San Diego harbors. For \$1, people could ride out into the ocean in hopes of seeing whales close-up.

The whale-watching boats became very popular. Soon similar boat trips were available from other seaports. Today millions of people around the world go whale-watching every year.

Interestingly, some whales are just as curious about humans as humans are about them. They may swim near a boat for hours, watching the passengers. Of course, this is a very exciting experience for those on board!

“I was looking through the side of a glass-bottomed whale boat,” says one whale watcher. “Suddenly, a blue whale was right next to me! Its eye looked straight at me as it swam by. Its body seemed to keep going and going. It was the most amazing experience of my life!”

At up to 100 feet long, it is no wonder that the blue whale’s body kept going. The blue whale is the largest mammal ever on Earth. Its body is the size of a passenger jet. Its tongue can weigh as much as an elephant.

Depending on where a person whale-watches, different types of whales may be seen. From the West Coast, people may see gray whales, blue whales, minke whales, fin whales, or killer whales. East Coast whales include humpbacks, finbacks, and minkes. On both coasts, dolphins are a common sight. They enjoy eating the same shrimp-like krill as whales.

Whale watchers also may catch sight of sea lions, seals, seabirds, and fish. Whale watching gives people a unique chance to see whales in their natural surroundings. For most, it is an experience they will never forget.

1. What type of whale can be seen by whale watchers on both the East Coast and the West Coast?

- A. gray whales
- B. blue whales
- C. minke whales
- D. humpback whales

2. Why do whales swim near whale-watching boats for hours?

- A. They are very interested in humans.
- B. They want passengers to take a lot of photos of them.
- C. They are hoping passengers will feed them some shrimp.
- D. They see their reflection in the boat and think it is another whale.

3. READ THESE TWO PARAGRAPHS FROM THE ARTICLE.

For thousands of years, whales have fascinated humans. However, until recent times, the average person did not have the chance to see these amazing creatures up close. The first opportunity arose in San Diego, California. There, in 1950, the Cabrillo National Monument was declared a public place to watch whales. Soon after, the first whale-watching boats sailed from San Diego harbors. For \$1, people could ride out into the ocean in hopes of seeing whales close-up.

The whale-watching boats became very popular. Soon similar boat trips were available from other seaports. Today millions of people around the world go whalewatching every year.

Which of these best describes the structure that is used in the two paragraphs?

- A. These paragraphs compare and contrast several different ideas.
- B. These paragraphs relate events in the order in which they occurred.
- C. These paragraphs present a problem and then a solution to solve it.
- D. These paragraphs identify a cause and show the effect it has on the subject.

4. READ THIS SENTENCE FROM THE ARTICLE.

These whale watchers are getting what they hoped for—a view of gray whales migrating south.

Which word means the same as migrating as it is used in the sentence?

- A. comparing
- B. pointing
- C. rising
- D. traveling

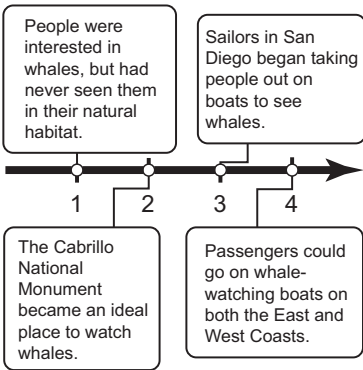
5. Which of these is the best summary of the article?

- A. Whale watching, popular since the 1950s, allows tourists to enjoy seeing whales in their native habitat.
- B. Whale-watching trips give tourists the chance to see different kinds of whales and also many different kinds of wildlife.
- C. Blue whales are very popular whales to see on whale-watching trips, while tourists occasionally get to see gray whales.
- D. Many times whales may only be seen by the use of binoculars during whalewatching trips, but sometimes the whales are curious and come close to the boats.

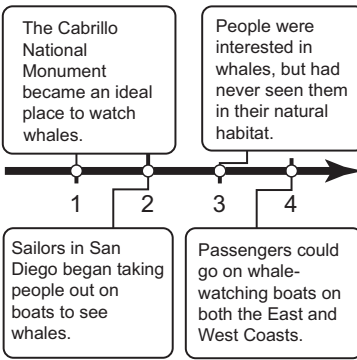


6. Which of these timelines shows the correct history of whale watching based on the article?

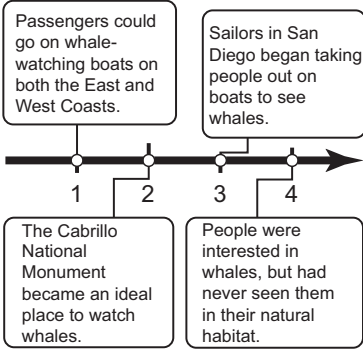
A.



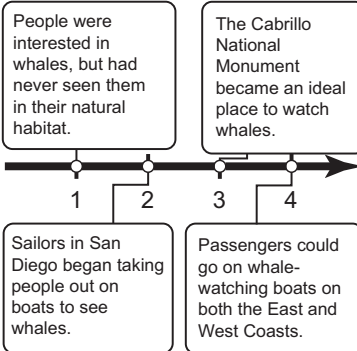
B.



C.



D.



7. PART A

Which of these is the main idea of the article?

- A. People have been fascinated by whales for a long time.
- B. Whale watchers are also happy to see other sea life such as seals and seabirds.
- C. Whale watching is a popular activity that gives people the chance to see whales in the wild.
- D. For just a few dollars, families can take a whale-watching boat into the ocean to see whales.

PART B

Which sentence from the article best supports the answer to Part A? Select the sentence.

- A. For thousands of years, whales have fascinated humans.
- B. For \$1, people could ride out into the ocean in hopes of seeing whales close up.
- C. Suddenly, a blue whale was right next to me!
- D. Whale watchers also may catch a sight of sea lions, seals, seabirds, and fish.
- E. Whale watching gives people a unique chance to see whales in their natural surroundings.

