

## Call of the Killer Whale Viewing Questions

The following questions are coded based on theme:  
A = Adaptations, E = Ecosystems, HI = Human Impact and  
G = General. Use these codes to help you choose which  
questions or segments to focus on.

### HOUR 1

#### Introduction (2:25-5:30)

- G 1. What is the maximum length of male orcas?
- A 2. Who rules orca pods?
- E 3. Where do orcas live?
- G 4. How many orcas are there worldwide?

#### Orcas in Captivity (5:31-11:25)

- HI 1. Why were orcas captured in the mid-1960s to mid-1970s?
- HI 2. What is one reason that keeping orcas in captivity is controversial?
- HI 3. Where was Keiko captured and where was he taken?
- HI 4. How many orcas remain in captivity today?
- HI 5. Keiko became famous because of which movie?

#### Orca Society and Culture (11:26-13:29)

- A 1. What defines a matrilineal society?
- G 2. When do large adult males leave their group?
- G 3. What are the names of the four groups of orcas that live in the Pacific Northwest?
- G 4. Do these groups mix?
- A 5. What do humans and orcas pass on from generation to generation?
- A 6. "For both humans and orcas, different \_\_\_\_\_ exist among the same species."

#### New Zealand Orcas (13:30-17:35)

- G 1. What percentage of the world's whale, dolphin and porpoise species live in the waters around New Zealand?
- G 2. How many orcas live around New Zealand?
- E 3. What are some of the things that New Zealand orcas feed on?
- A 4. What are some of the differences between orcas in New Zealand and orcas in the Pacific Northwest?
- A 5. Even though orcas around the world live in similar \_\_\_\_\_, they have different \_\_\_\_\_.

**Echolocation/Keiko's Rehabilitation - Part I (17:46-21:35)**

- HI 1. Why did Keiko gnaw on the rock in his tank?
- HI 2. What important task did Keiko have to learn to do in order to be released and survive in the wild?
- A 3. Why do whales echolocate?

**Hunting Strategies of Orcas (21:36-27:19)**

- A 1. The orcas in New Zealand are opportunistic in their feeding, but are also very \_\_\_\_\_.
- A 2. How do orcas catch rays along the rocky coast of New Zealand?
- A 3. Why do the orcas carry the rays around?
- A 4. What do orcas that aren't good at catching rays do when they find a ray?
- A 5. What have the orcas learned to do to keep rays immobilized?
- A 6. How do orcas in Antarctica catch crabeater seals?
- A 7. How do orcas in Argentina catch sea lion pups?
- A 8. How do transient orcas off the coast of California hunt gray whale calves?
- A 9. If there is a change in the orca's environment so that their prey is no longer available, it is difficult for orcas to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Orca Vocalization/Keiko's Rehabilitation - Part II (27:20-33:22)**

- A 1. For how long did Keiko learn to hold his breath (which is normal for wild orcas)?
- HI 2. What did Keiko do before sleeping that was different than a wild whale?
- HI 3. How long had it been since Keiko communicated with another orca?
- G 4. How do Dr. Spong and the researchers at OrcaLab listen to the orcas?
- A 5. How can the researchers tell if the orcas are hunting?
- A 6. What do the orcas' calls sound like when they are resting?
- A 7. On average, how many distinct calls does a pod make?
- A 8. Which mammals are known to have dialects at the family level?

**Keiko's Return to the Wild (33:23-38:27) and (41:15-43:46)**

- G 1. From how far away can orcas' calls be heard?
- HI 2. How did Keiko travel to Iceland?
- HI 3. Where was Keiko kept while he acclimated to his old home?
- HI 4. How long had Keiko been in captivity?
- HI 5. Did Keiko join a group of orcas in Iceland?
- HI 6. Why was the decision made to again feed Keiko by hand?
- G 7. How did Keiko die?

**Orca Stranding** (44:55-53:45)

- HI 1. How does the team first help the stranded young orca?
- G 2. Why did the young orca have marks on her tail stalk?
- G 3. It is believed that orcas can survive out of water for how long?
- G 4. Why was Rakey moved to the eastern coast of the island for release?

**HOUR 2**

**Norway** (2:23-7:38)

- A 1. Do the orcas in Norway have the same matrilineal system as those in the Pacific Northwest?
- A 2. Why do the orcas travel into the fjords in the winter?
- A 3. What is the name of the unique technique that the orcas use to hunt herring?
- E 4. After 20 years of coming into the fjords, why did the herring and the orcas stay offshore this year?
- HI 5. What happened to the orcas when the herring population was overfished in the late 1960s?
- HI 6. What is one possible reason that the orcas' social structure is so fluid?
- G 7. What animal did the team unexpectedly find swimming in the ocean in Norway?

**Hunting Gray Whales** (7:39-12:19)

- G 1. Where does the **Ocean Adventures** team travel to look for orcas hunting gray whales?
- A 2. Why do the transient orcas focus on hunting gray whales versus other whales?
- A 3. How do the orcas kill the gray whale calf?
- A 4. Why do the orcas eat the tongue of the gray whale first?

**Contaminants - Part I** (12:20-18:11)

- HI 1. Why can't the **Ocean Adventures** team approach the orcas in British Columbia?
- HI 2. Which group of orcas are the most contaminated marine mammals on the planet?
- HI 3. How does Dr. Ross study the contaminants in orcas even though he can't take samples from them?
- HI 4. How do chemicals enter the marine environment?
- HI 5. How do chemicals like PCBs and PBDEs impact orcas and harbor seals?
- HI 6. What is the relationship between high contaminant levels in marine mammals and humans?

**Salmon - Part I (19:47-27:57)**

- E 1. Who depends on salmon for survival in the Pacific Northwest (there are several answers)?
- E 2. How do orcas "manage" the population of their food, the salmon?
- HI 3. What are two probable reasons that the wild salmon populations have declined in British Columbia?
- HI 4. What species of salmon are farmed in British Columbia?
- HI 5. How many pounds of fish (used as food for farmed fish) does it take to grow one pound of farmed fish?
- HI 6. How many times higher are the levels of PCBs and PBDEs in farmed salmon than in wild salmon?
- HI 7. What is the health concern around PCBs and PBDEs?

**Contaminants - Part II (27:57-33:46)**

- HI 1. When were PCBs banned in the United States?
- HI 2. In what kinds of foods are PCBs found?
- HI 3. What are PBDEs and where are they found?
- HI 4. Why do children have higher levels of PBDEs than adults?

**Salmon - Part II (33:47-45:51)**

- HI 1. Why are the orcas in the Pacific Northwest traveling farther each day than they used to?
- E 2. What do orcas eat?
- G 3. By what year are wild Chinook salmon predicted to be extinct?
- E 4. What do Chinook salmon eat when they are young?
- G 5. What are salmon born without?
- G 6. How do sea lice affect baby salmon?
- HI 7. What is the relationship between sea lice infecting baby salmon and fish farms?
- HI 8. What is slice?
- HI 9. What is one solution to the open-net salmon farms?

**Robson Bight (45:52-50:13)**

- E 1. Why is Robson Bight an important area for orcas?
- HI 2. What was lost on the bottom of the ocean in Robson Bight?
- HI 3. What are the concerns about having the wreckage at the bottom?
- HI 4. When will some pieces of the wreckage be removed?