

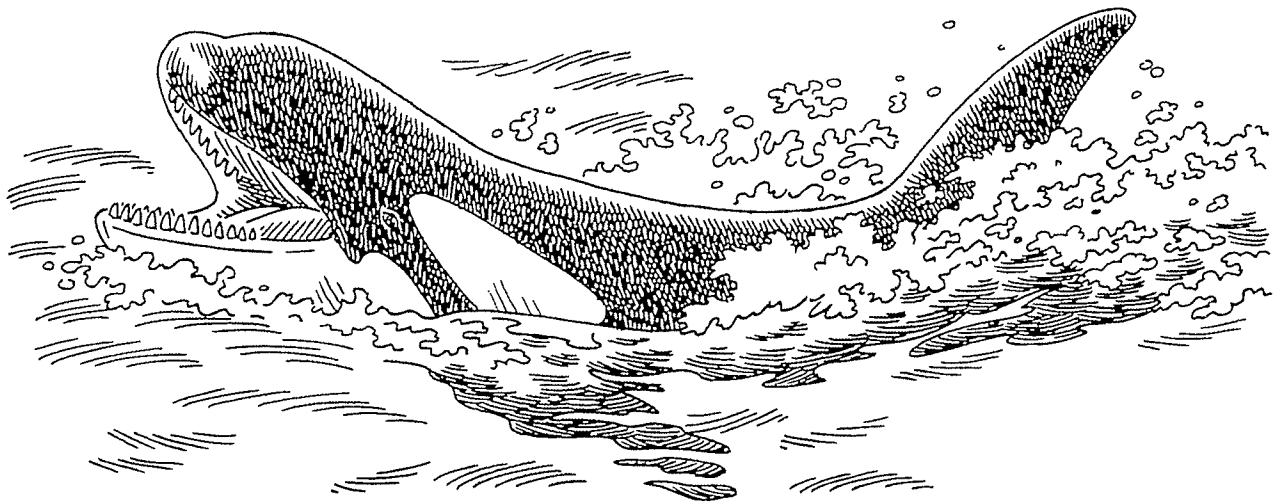
The Misnamed Predator

Killer whales are misnamed. Although they are powerful predators, they aren't whales. Killer whales belong to the scientific family *Delphinidae*, which includes dolphins and porpoises. The origins of the misleading name began back in the 18th century. This was when whalers nicknamed these animals "whale killers" after witnessing their fierce and powerful attacks on much larger prey. Over time, the name became reversed, and the animals became known as "killer whales."

Despite the popularity of the name "killer whale," scientists aren't comfortable with it because of its inaccuracy. They prefer the name "orca." "Orca" comes from the creature's scientific name, *Orcinus orca*. As the name "orca" avoids the word "whale," it is a much better fit for the largest member of the dolphin family. In addition, the negative feelings that one gets from the word "killer" are avoided.

Orcas hunt in groups. Their particular hunting method depends on the circumstances and their prey. Around ice, an orca may spy hop (poke its head out of the water and look around). If prey is spotted on a floe, the orca signals other members of its pod, or group, and then swims underneath the edge of the floe. Next, it pushes the floe up, forcing the resting animals to slide down into the water where the other pod members are waiting.

Orcas along the beaches of Punta Norte, Argentina, and the Crozet Islands in the southern Indian Ocean use a hunting technique that involves surging out of the water and landing on shore. Orcas will rush out of the water and land so quickly that they can grab unsuspecting seals and sea lions before their victims are even aware that an attack is underway. Then, with their prey clamped firmly between their jaws, the orcas wriggle back into the sea.



Letter from an Exchange Student

24 Calle Norte
Puerto Deseado
Argentina

January 15, 2010

Dear Mom and Dad,

Yesterday my science class went on a whale-watching field trip. We went with a professor who has been studying a population of right whales that live off the coast of Argentina since 1969. Right whales are the most endangered of all the great whales. Despite being protected since the 1930s, no one knows if the population will ever recover.

Right whales belong to the scientific family *Balaenidae*, but their common name came from whalers. The whalers called this type of whales “right whales” because they were the “right” whale to kill. They were filled with oil harvested and sold for commercial reasons, easy targets because they swam slowly, and floated when they were dead.

We saw the right whales, but we also saw orcas (you might know them as “killer whales”). The professor told us that orcas are amazing predators. They teach their young different hunting methods for the hundreds of different types of animals they eat. Among other things, orcas eat fish, squid, seabirds, otters, penguins, sea turtles, seals, sea lions, polar bears, walruses, and whales.

When one of my classmates heard that orcas working together can attack much larger whales, he suggested that perhaps the orcas were the reason the right whale population was so endangered. The professor explained that even though orcas are at the top of the ocean food chain, it was overhunting by whalers who caused the near-extinction of right whales. He also told us something that surprised me and the rest of the class. He said that 40 to 50 percent of all orca calves die within the first year of birth. I guess survival is always hard—even for a top predator.

Until next week,

Gwendolyn

Show What You Know

The following are based on "The Misnamed Predator" and "Letter from an Exchange Student." If needed, you may look back at the passages to answer the questions.

1. Scientists prefer the name "orca" because

- (A) orcas are powerful predators.
- (B) orcas eat many different kinds of prey.
- (C) the name "whale killer" reversed over time.
- (D) orcas are members of the dolphin family.

2. Which answer is not a reason why right whales were hunted?

- (A) swam slowly
- (B) filled with oil
- (C) floated when dead
- (D) top of the food chain

3. What do both stories have in common?

- (A) animals that eat seals
- (B) animals that are protected
- (C) animals that hunt together
- (D) animals that are near extinction

4. From the stories, one can tell that 18th-century whalers were definitely witness to orcas

- (A) hunting together.
- (B) protecting their calves.
- (C) spy hopping to spot prey.
- (D) surging out of the water.

5. From the stories, one can tell that right whales

- (A) eat hundreds of types of animals.
- (B) are not in the same family as dolphins.
- (C) are above orcas on the ocean food chain.
- (D) live only in the coastal waters of Argentina.

Show What You Know *(cont.)*

6. Write down the steps an orca follows when it catches an animal resting on an ice floe.

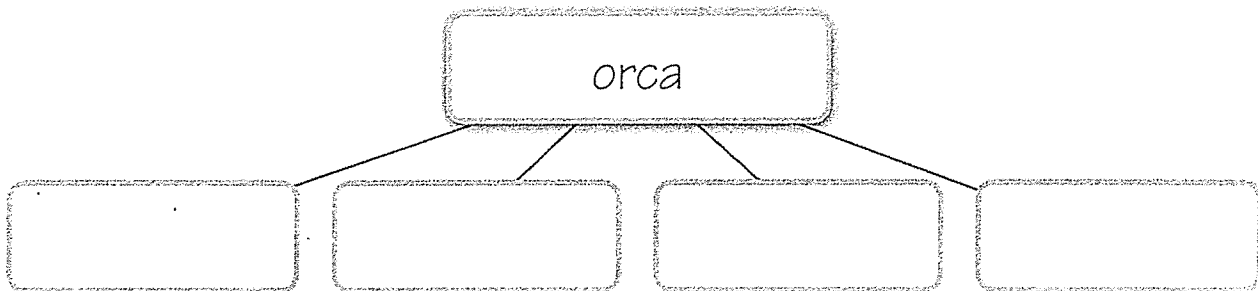
1.

2.

4. *pod members wait at other end of floe*

3.

7. Fill in the names of some animals to complete the food chain.



Write three or four sentences that tell what each story is about.

8. "The Misnamed Predator"

9. "Letter from an Exchange Student"

10. Imagine that you were able to see orcas hunting seals on land or on an ice floe. In a letter to a friend, describe what you saw, as well as provide some information about orcas. Remember to include the parts of a letter, such as the date, a greeting, and a closing. *(Use a separate piece of paper. Your letter should be one or two paragraphs long.)*

End Day 1

When No Whistle Blew

Jean Driscoll, born November 18, 1966, was 16 years old and in high school when she first participated in the Milwaukee Public Schools division of Recreation Wheelchair Sports Program. At first Driscoll was embarrassed to be there, but one incident changed her mind. At the very start of her first soccer game, she witnessed two players in manual wheelchairs whiz down the court from opposite ends toward a big red rubber ball. Intent on gaining possession of the ball, the two players whammed into each other so forcefully that one player was catapulted out of his chair and onto the court.

Driscoll expected a whistle to blow. She expected the game to stop. She expected an able-bodied person to run out and rescue the player on the ground. Instead, nothing happened. The game continued, with other players grabbing the ball and bouncing it as they moved on down the court. For the first time in her life, Driscoll had truly found something competitive she could do. Playing hard, she was thrown out of her chair twice before the game was over.

Driscoll had been born with spina bifida, a neural tube defect that affects the spinal cord and its protective coverings. When younger, Driscoll had special therapeutic shoes and braces to walk, but when she got older, despite many painful operations, she needed a wheelchair.

Driscoll never looked back after her initiation into competitive sports. She was determined to compete as an athlete of the finest caliber. Driscoll's efforts made people pay attention, with the result of her being recruited by the University of Illinois for its athletic program. Driscoll competed in swimming, track, and basketball. She went on to compete in marathons and set world records for the grueling, 26-mile, 385-yard-long (42 km) endurance race. Between 1990 and 2000, Driscoll won the Boston Marathon eight times.



Marathon Training Journal

January 17, 2008

My training for the Boston Marathon continues. My inspiration is eight-time winner Jean Driscoll. Driscoll's world-record times for that race have been around one hour and 32 minutes. Contrast that to Bob Hall's time of two hours and 58 minutes. Hall's time might not look as impressive as Driscoll's, but Hall was a record-setter himself. Hall was the first person to ever compete in the Boston Marathon in a wheelchair. At that time no one thought a wheelchair athlete could accomplish such a strenuous feat. Second, when Hall entered in 1975, they hadn't developed the racing wheelchairs like they have today. His chair weighed a whopping 50 pounds (22.5 kg)! Contrast that to my chair's weight of 12 pounds (5.5 kg).

February 10, 2008

Driscoll can bench press 210 pounds (94.5 kg), nearly twice her body weight. I'm not there yet, but I'm lifting weights three times a week just like she did when she trained. I'm also riding about 100 miles (160 km) a week.

I'm a little nervous about the downhill stretches, because it's not unusual for athletes to be bunched together when they go down hills, and speeds of about 50 miles (80 km) per hour are reached. I'll just concentrate on not panicking and remembering that, for safety reasons, a bicycle brake is attached to each racing chair.

March 6, 2008

Today Coach reminded me about conserving energy by drafting, or following closely behind someone. The racer in front has to overcome air resistance, but the drafting racer expends less energy, because the pocket of air behind the racer in front offers much less resistance. Coach also reminded us about passing rules: I can only pull in front of another racer if I'm at least one full wheel-width ahead of him or her.

Show What You Know

The following are questions based on the passages "When No Whistle Blew" and "Marathon Training Journal." If needed, you may look back at the passages to answer the questions.

1. What does one know Driscoll didn't expect of her first soccer game?

- (A) that it would be competitive
- (B) that it would be embarrassing
- (C) that a big red rubber ball would be used
- (D) that players on the ground would be rescued

2. One reason Hall's time might have differed from Driscoll's is that

- (A) he had a wheelchair that weighed more.
- (B) he could bench press twice his body weight.
- (C) he trained by riding 100 miles (160 km) a week.
- (D) he was the first one to enter the Boston Marathon.

3. Both stories are about

- (A) wheelchair soccer.
- (B) competitive athletes.
- (C) training for a marathon.
- (D) overcoming air resistance.

4. When one is forcefully thrown, one is

- (A) drafted.
- (B) impressed.
- (C) recruited.
- (D) catapulted.

5. From the stories, one can tell that most likely

- (A) Hall saved energy by drafting.
- (B) Hall passed other racers in wheelchairs
- (C) Driscoll began to train months before each marathon.
- (D) Driscoll won her first marathon when she was in high school.

Show What You Know (cont.)

6. Fill in the blanks with answers about Jean Driscoll.

a. What caused Driscoll to be in a wheelchair?

b. When did Driscoll expect to hear a whistle?

c. Why did Driscoll expect a whistle to blow?

d. How many times was Driscoll thrown out of her wheelchair?

e. Where did Driscoll go after being recruited?

7. Write in the date and one fact mentioned in each journal entry about wheelchair racing.

Date:

Fact:

Write three or four sentences that tell what each story is about.

8. "When No Whistle Blew"

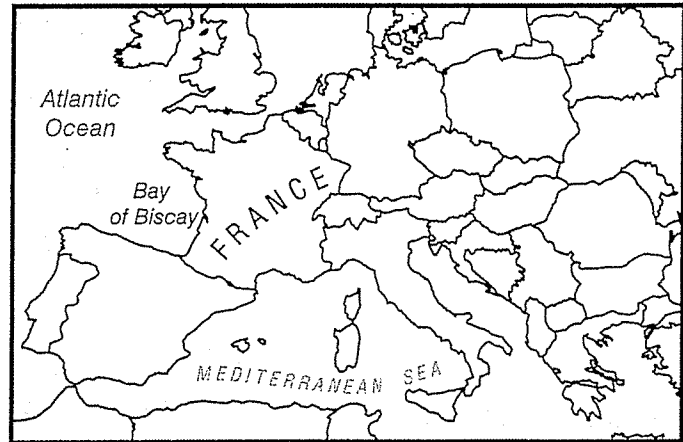
9. "Marathon Training Journal"

10. On a separate piece of paper, write two journal entries, each one telling in part how you are training for a competitive event. The competitive event can be for any type of school activity, athletic, academic, or extracurricular. You may want to include in your journal entries information about the event, past winners, and what you are doing to prepare or kinds of things you are learning.

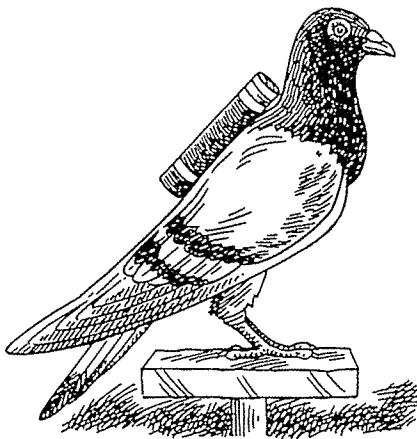
End Day 2

Flying Blood

A doctor needs a patient's blood tested and analyzed as soon as possible. Both the doctor and the patient are on Yeu. Yeu is a small island off the coast of France in the Bay of Biscay. There is not a medical laboratory on Yeu, so after drawing two small vials of blood from the patient, the doctor arranges to have one of the two samples flown to a hospital on the mainland where it can be analyzed. If the blood is not flown by helicopter or plane, how is it transported?



The blood is transported by a carrier pigeon! First, the blood is placed in a red fluorescent pouch. Second, the fluorescent pouch is strapped to the homing pigeon. Once released, the pigeon flies 32 miles (51.2 km) to its home loft in Les Sables d'Olonne on France's mainland. It would take a helicopter one hour to complete this flight, but the average flight time for a pigeon is only 25 minutes.



Once notified that the pigeon has been released, the hospital dispatches an ambulance. Once the pigeon returns to its loft, the waiting ambulance driver removes the sample and takes it to the hospital laboratory. The blood is then analyzed, and the results are telephoned to the waiting doctor.

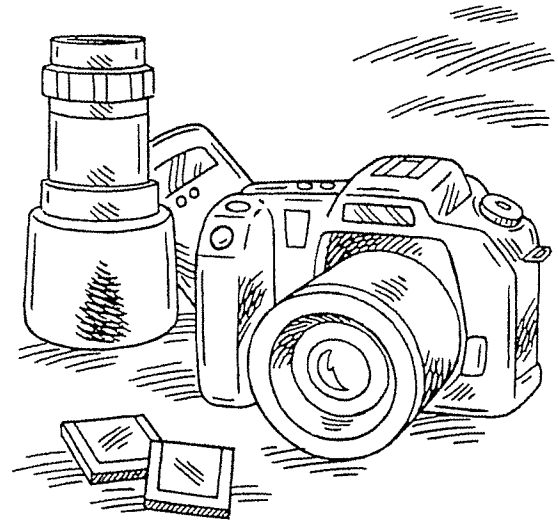
The vial with the second sample of blood is only used if the pigeon carrying the first sample is delayed. If a pigeon does not reach its loft two hours after being dispatched, it is considered a delay. On the average, about one or two pigeons per day are used to transport blood in the winter months. During the summer months, when Yeu's population triples because of the influx of tourists, as many as six birds may be dispatched per day.

Scoop of the Century!

Hye Jung told her editor Jerome Patterson, "Don't worry. I'll get the photographs."

Hye Jung's editor looked at his star photojournalist. He said, "Hye Jung, you must remember that you're only as good as your last story, and part of what makes a good story is being first. Sure, you can get the pictures, but so can every other journalist covering the negotiations. To scoop the other newspapers, we need the photographs in time for our first printing. Have you forgotten that for security reasons no cars or buses will be allowed out of the arena until the president and other world leaders are miles away? Unless you can fly like a bird, there is no possible way for you to deliver your pictures in time."

Three hours later, a courier entered the newspaper newsroom with an envelope addressed to "Jerome Patterson, Editor of *The Herald*." The expression on Patterson's face changed from bewilderment to excited wonder when he understood what the envelope contained. "Hold the presses!" he cried. "I've got the cartridge from Hye Jung's camera in my hand!"



That evening's edition, with its front-page picture of the president shaking hands with other world leaders, sold out. "We were the only evening edition newspaper with pictures of the negotiations!" Patterson gleefully told Hye Jung while congratulating her. "It was the scoop of the century. How did you do it?"

"Homing pigeon," Hye Jung said, her eyes twinkling. "After getting some excellent photographs, I raced to my car, where I had stowed a carrier pigeon in a carrying case. I released the bird after enclosing my camera cartridge in a pouch on its belly. Knowing that it would return to its loft, I had directed a messenger to be waiting and to immediately deliver the cartridge to you."

Show What You Know

The following are questions based on the passages "Flying Blood" and "Scoop of the Century!" If needed, you may look back at the passages to answer the questions.

- 1. About how much faster does a pigeon get blood to the mainland than a helicopter?**
 - (A) about one hour
 - (B) about two hours
 - (C) about half an hour
 - (D) about an hour-and-a-half
- 2. For Hye Jung to get her scoop, she had to get her pictures delivered**
 - (A) before the presses were stopped.
 - (B) before the paper's first printing.
 - (C) before the negotiations were over.
 - (D) before the president left the arena.
- 3. Both stories are about**
 - (A) carrier pigeons
 - (B) pigeons in France
 - (C) homing-pigeon lofts
 - (D) transporting pigeons
- 4. From the stories, one can tell that carrier pigeons**
 - (A) can only carry small vials.
 - (B) can be used to take pictures.
 - (C) can be used for more than one purpose.
 - (D) can fly faster than cars or buses can travel.
- 5. If Hye Jung wrote a story about a carrier pigeon transporting the blood of a world leader, for her story to be a scoop it would be necessary that**
 - (A) her story was printed first.
 - (B) her story had stopped the presses.
 - (C) her story was as good as her last story.
 - (D) her story had photographs of the world leader.

Show What You Know *(cont.)*

6. Fill in the boxes to show what happens when a doctor on Yeu wants blood analyzed.

1.	2. one vial put in fluorescent pouch	3.	4. hospital notified
8. doctor telephoned	7.	6.	5.

7. Fill in the boxes to show the story elements from "Scoop of the Century!"

<i>Setting</i>	<i>Characters</i>	<i>Action/problem</i>	<i>Outcome</i>

Write three or four sentences that tell what each story is about.

8. "Flying Blood"

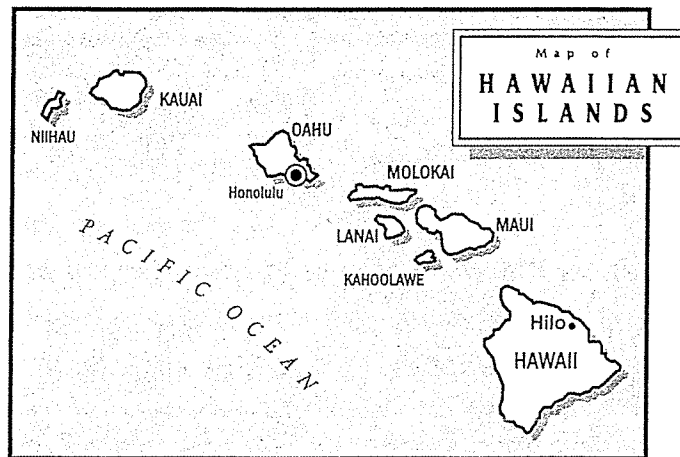
9. "Scoop of the Century!"

10. Describe a way that courier pigeons could be used. Make sure you include information about your story setting, characters, action/problem, and outcome in your writing. *(Use a separate piece of paper. Your writing should be a few paragraphs long.)*

End Day 3

Tsunami Survivor

On April 1, 1946, a massive tsunami struck Hilo, a city on Hawaii's Big Island. Although 165 people were killed, 18-year-old Mieko Browne survived. Browne attributes her survival to a pair of dirty shoes.



The tsunami was caused by an earthquake near Alaska's Aleutian Islands. A tsunami is a series of huge waves unleashed by an underwater disturbance. Tsunamis are not like regular waves that rise up from the water's surface and crest. Instead, they are like a vast wall of water, reaching down to the ocean bottom, traveling outward from the area of disturbance in all directions.

Browne was about to leave for school, but then she noticed that her shoes were dirty. Five minutes later, after having polished her shoes, she finally left the house. It was then that she heard the warning shout, "Tsunami!" Browne actually believed the warning to be an April Fools' joke until she looked up and saw, in her words, "a huge wall of dirty water."

Fortunately, Browne's mother was able to grab Browne, pull her inside, and slam the door before the 35-foot-high (11 m) wave hit. The force of the water knocked Browne's house completely off the ground, and it began to float. Standing knee-deep in water, Browne opened the door to her closet and saw that the entire back of the house had been swept away. All that was visible were more waves and dead fish.

As Browne saw neighbors desperately clinging to anything they could hold on to, the house was swept three times far out into the Hilo harbor and then back. It was only when the house crashed into a factory wall that Browne and her mother were able to extricate themselves from their floating house and find temporary safety in the factory.

Hamaguchi's Sacrifice

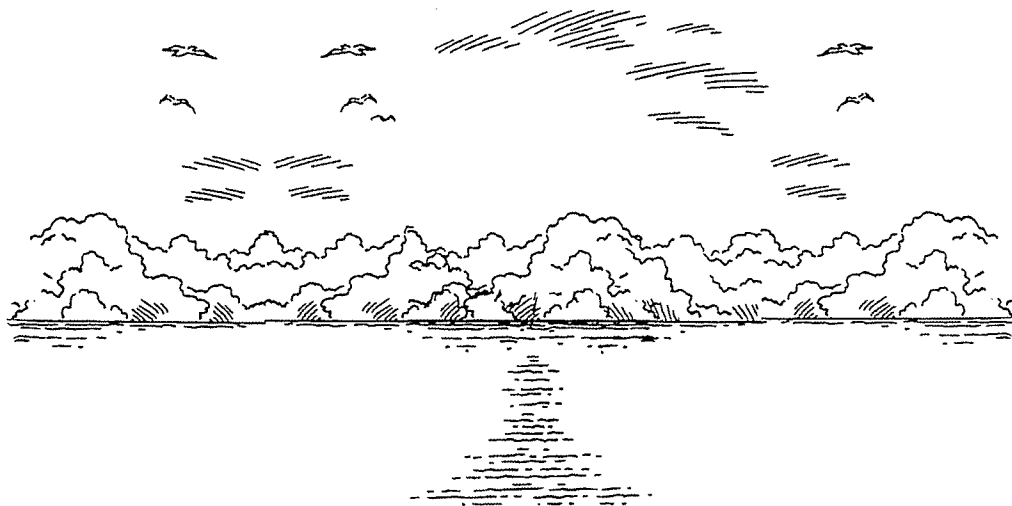
Yoshi patiently explained to his little sister Mori why a handful of dirt was used to honor Goryo Hamaguchi. "Many lives were saved in our little village of Hiromura because of Hamaguchi's sacrifice," he said. "Hamaguchi was a wealthy landowner. He owned many rice fields high up on a mountain that faced the sea. On December 24, 1854, he recognized the warning signs of a coming tsunami.

"When Hamaguchi saw the ocean pulling back from the land, he knew that the village was in great danger. Immediately, Hamaguchi ordered his workers to set his rice fields on fire. Hamaguchi's workers thought that Hamaguchi was mad. After all, what reasonable man would burn his crops he could sell for a great profit?

"Hamaguchi sacrificed his crops in order to lure fishermen and all the other villagers up the mountain to safety. Hamaguchi knew that everyone would come running to help put out the fire. Thanks to Hamaguchi's sacrifice, countless lives were saved. But Hamaguchi wasn't done with his kindness. When the surviving villagers began to rebuild their homes on the beach, Hamaguchi studied the area and drew up plans for a dike. Hamaguchi paid the villagers to build the protective wall with his own money. The dike took four years to build! Today we honor Hamaguchi and his heroic sacrifice by bringing a handful of dirt to the dike and saying a prayer in his honor."

"Do people in countries other than Japan know about Hamaguchi?" Mori asked.

"Probably not," Yoshi answered. "They probably don't even know that *tsunami* means 'harbor wave.' The phrase comes from the words *tsu* (harbor) and *nami* (wave). The phrase was coined by fishermen who returned home from the deep seas only to find their harbor and villages completely devastated by giant waves."



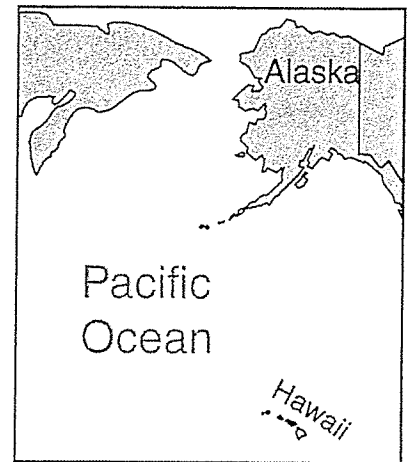
Show What You Know

The following are questions based on the passages "Tsunami Survivor" and "Hamaguchi's Sacrifice." If needed, you may look back at the passages to answer the questions.

1. How many times was Browne's house swept into the Hilo harbor?
 - (A) zero
 - (B) one
 - (C) two
 - (D) three
2. When one is lured, one is
 - (A) tricked or grabbed.
 - (B) drawn in or enticed.
 - (C) visible or polished.
 - (D) swept away or floating.
3. What do both stories have in common?
 - (A) devastating waves
 - (B) sacrificing waves
 - (C) waves that hit in the 1900s
 - (D) waves that people knew were coming
4. Most likely, if Browne had looked out into the harbor before the tsunami hit, she would have
 - (A) not polished her shoes.
 - (B) tried to lure people to higher ground.
 - (C) seen the ocean pulling back from the land.
 - (D) known that it wasn't an April Fools' joke.
5. One can tell from the stories that the tsunami that destroyed Hiromura
 - (A) started near the water's surface.
 - (B) may not have started close to Japan.
 - (C) destroyed the dike the villagers built.
 - (D) was not as devastating as the one that hit Hilo.

Show What You Know *(cont.)*

6. Use the clues from “Tsunami Survivor” to mark on the map close to where the tsunami began and where Browne felt it. Put a star (★) where the tsunami began. Put an X where Browne felt the tsunami.



7. Number the events from “Hamaguchi’s Sacrifice” so that they are in the correct sequence of when they occurred.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| ___ orders given to set rice fields on fire | ___ villagers start to rebuild |
| ___ handful of dirt brought to dike | ___ ocean pulls away from land |
| ___ villagers run to help put out fires | ___ villagers paid to build dike |
| ___ plans drawn up for dike | |

Write three or four sentences that tell what each story is about.

8. “Tsunami Survivor”

9. “Hamaguchi’s Sacrifice”

10. Think of a holiday or something you do specially on a holiday. Explain the holiday or what you do on the holiday to someone who may not know. *(Use a separate piece of paper. Your writing should be a few paragraphs long.)*

End Day 4