Helping Whales

SUMMARY Students read about dangers whales encounter and how people can help them.

VOCABULARY
Concept Words
whales stuck float
trapped vet dolphins
safety

INTRODUCE THE BOOK
BUILD BACKGROUND Discuss with students the connection between humans and animals. Explain that animals in the wild sometimes need the help of humans in order to survive.

ELL Have students name animals that humans most commonly interact with and write them on the board. Brainstorm a hypothetical dangerous situation each animal might be in and how a human can help in that situation.

PREVIEW Invite students to take a picture walk to preview the text and illustrations. Discuss how the whale is in danger on each page and how it is being helped.

READ THE BOOK
SET PURPOSE Have students set a purpose for reading Helping Whales. Ask them to think about why people might want to help the whale in each situation.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS
PAGE 3 What happened to the whale on this page? (It is beached; the water is too shallow for the whale to swim out to the ocean.)

PAGE 6 How does sawing the ice help the whale? (It cuts a path so that the whale can get back out to the ocean; it provides a space where the whale can come up to breathe while swimming out to sea.)

PAGE 7 Where do you think this whale is? Why? (It must be in a zoo or aquarium because we don’t know when whales in the wild are sick, so we can’t call the vet to help them.)

TEXT-TO-TEXT QUESTION
What other stories have you read about helping animals?

REVISIT THE BOOK
READER RESPONSE Answers
1. Responses will vary, but encourage students to suggest endangered animals.
2. Possible response: We can call the veterinarian, the humane society, or animal control.
3. Responses will vary but should be supported with details.

EXTEND UNDERSTANDING Point out to students that while humans often help animals in danger, they are also sometimes the cause of the danger, such as the whales getting stuck in the fishing net. Discuss with students ways that humans can harm animals and what can be done to prevent this from happening.

RESPONSE OPTIONS
DRAMA Divide students into two groups, one an animal group and the other a human group. Play a game in which the “animals” are in danger. The humans must then help them. If desired, points can be awarded for creative situations and helpful responses. After a few scenarios, have the groups switch roles.

SCIENCE CONNECTION
Explain to students that many people love to help animals and often create organizations to make it easier for others to join the cause. Discuss with students a cause or animal they would all be interested to support. Have students do research to find an appropriate organization and then write letters asking how they can help.

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER, PAGE 36
Have students complete the chart to tell the dangers whales might encounter and the ways people can help.
Complete the chart to tell how people can help whales.

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