

## Pre-Test - Persuasive

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read the passages below and answer the questions that follow. Choose the one best answer to each question and write the letter in the blank.

### Dolphins of Destruction?

*At dusk, the giant steel submarine surfaces from deep under the sea. Racing ahead of the vessel are three bottle-nosed dolphins ready to fly through the water on top-secret missions.*

*Two dolphins turn north. Strapped to their snouts are sophisticated listening and tracking devices. The dolphins come up under the belly of an enemy ship and clamp the strongly magnetized bugs onto its hull. Now the submarine will be able to track that ship wherever it goes—and actually hear what is taking place inside the ship.*

*Meanwhile, the other dolphin veers south with a mine loaded on its back. Silently, the animal enters a river inlet. Bouncing sounds off each pier, it locates the wharf the enemy uses to store ammo and attaches the mine to an underwater piling. Soon the wharf will erupt in a mammoth explosion.*

#### Top Secret

At this point you might be saying, “Come on. Is this true?” Well, for the past 30 years, the U.S. Navy has indeed trained dolphins for a variety of undersea jobs. Although we have dramatized the missions above, they are all based firmly on reports by researchers who once worked in Navy dolphin programs. Have fleets of Flippers really been taught to kill and destroy? The answer you get depends on which side you talk to.

Side 1 is represented by animal-rights groups and former researchers. These people say, “We know that dolphins were used during the Vietnam War to locate and plant mines in the Mekong River. And we know that they were trained for combat duty in the Persian Gulf in 1987.”

One animal defender is Rick O’Barry, who trained dolphins used in the famous *Flipper* TV series and now heads the protective Dolphin Project. Mr. O’Barry states, “The military itself refers to these creatures as ‘advanced biological weapons systems.’ But, of course, it classifies much of this dangerous work as top secret.”

Side 2 is the Navy. Spokesman Tom LaPuzza says, “We have about 110 dolphins today in special programs based in California and Hawaii. All we can say about these programs is that basically, our dolphins are trained to find things. We can’t go into details, however, because national security is involved.”

#### Right for the Job

Why would anyone want to train such friendly creatures to be spies or soldiers of the sea?

Several reasons. They’re fast, they maneuver skillfully, and they’re incredibly bright. Dolphins seem to have an inborn desire to please humans. They’re natural imitators.

“I was standing by an observation window having a cigarette,” says a trainer. “A young dolphin cruised by the glass, and I blew cigarette smoke toward it. The baby swam quickly to its mother, took a drink of milk, then returned and spit the milk like a puff of smoke right back at me!”

Dolphins have a skill that puts them in a special class. They can echolocate, or bounce sounds off objects and find things by interpreting the echoes. This ability is so sensitive that dolphins can tell the difference between steel and copper and can detect thicknesses to 3/1000 inch.

This supersonar is far superior to any device humans have developed. A maker of sonar equipment who studied dolphins for the Navy comments, “Dolphins are self-propelled vehicles with on-board computers. All you have to do is program them.”

Everyone agrees that dolphins are extraordinary. There is strong disagreement about whether the military should use or program them.

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### “Keep them in the Wild”

Animal welfare organizations, such as the Humane Society of the U.S., oppose using dolphins in military activities. Spokespeople for these groups give a number of reasons.

“In the first place, humans should leave dolphins where they belong. Dolphins are social, free-roaming animals. It’s wrong to remove them from their families and hold them in pens. A huge percentage die from capture-stress syndrome. Survivors lose their wildness, some forever.”

“In the second place, when the military transports dolphins from one environment to another, the animals may be exposed to infections or killing temperatures. Nalu, a Navy dolphin taken from the Gulf of Mexico and shipped to the frigid waters of Puget Sound, died within 11 days.”

There are other problems. Government counts show that one-fourth of all dolphins the Navy has died. The number of dolphins in the Gulf of Mexico is shrinking, and this is where the Navy has captured most of the dolphins it uses. Rick Trout, a civilian researcher who once worked for the Navy, testified that dolphins were abused— “kicked, poked with boat hooks, and kept hungry,” he said.

“Humans have no right to exploit animals,” defenders say. “They’re not here to become our servants. They are worked so hard that the stress makes them sick. With the cold war over, why do we need to train dolphins for combat and spy duty?”

### “Better Off With Us”

What do the Navy people say?

“Dolphins are really better off in the Navy,” says its spokesman. “Our records show that those with us have had a better survival rate for the past 10 years than dolphins in the wild have had. They get regular veterinary care and never have to hunt for food. The training actually stimulates the dolphins’ minds. They enjoy the challenge.”

“We keep our dolphins in seaside pools with nets beneath them. The nets aren’t there to keep the dolphins in; they keep sharks and other sea life out. As a matter of fact, surrounding the pools are narrow boardwalks the dolphins can easily jump over if they want to escape. On most days they are released into the open sea, but they always come back.”

“Because of our research, we’ve contributed more knowledge about dolphins to science than has any other institution. Dolphins save money by finding lost equipment. They save time by doing certain things much faster than humans do. Because they dive deeper than we can, they easily accomplish tasks that would be very dangerous for humans.”

As far as claims of abuse go, Mr. LaPuzza says, “We’re doing as well as anybody else. There were a few incidents of mistreatment, but those trainers were fired. Later, our handling was found to be ‘exemplary.’ “Let’s be clear: Dolphins have never killed people or blown up subs.”

### What Next?

Where do things stand now? The National Fisheries Service has recommended that the Navy stop capturing dolphins, and the Navy has complied. After 15 animal-welfare groups together sued the Navy, it scrapped plans to send dolphins armed with nose-cone guns to guard a sub base in Washington State.

The Navy met with experts recently to discuss *how* to return dolphins to the wild, but it stresses that it has *no* plans to actually release them. “The 110 dolphins we have now is the number we need,” says Mr. LaPuzza. “When we develop equipment to match

the dolphins’ location ability, then we’ll be willing to let them go.”

However, Mr. O’Barry doesn’t believe that. “The Navy will *never release all* of the dolphins,” he says. “They know too much. They’re very highly trained, and their sonar ability makes them just too valuable to let go.”

What do you think the next step should be? Should the Navy continue to maintain the “Dolphin Fleet,” or should dolphins be returned to the wild?

One dolphin seemed to express its own opinion about Navy work. “While training in the Persian Gulf,” Mr. Trout says, “it was sent to track down a diver posing as an enemy. Instead of attacking the ‘enemy’ as taught, the dolphin swam up and nuzzled the diver’s neck.”

What do you suppose it was trying to say?

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"Dolphins of Destruction?" from *Read Magazine* Volume 42 #7, November 27, 1992. (Special permission granted; READ® magazine published and copyrighted by Weekly Reader Corporation: Stanford, CT.) Reprinted from *Kansas Released Reading Grade 8, Item Set 8-1* © 2004 (University of Kansas: Lawrence, KS).

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The Navy's bias is that dolphins
- A. should be used in medical research.
  - B. are too dangerous to be used by the Navy.
  - C. should continue to be used by the Navy.
  - D. should only be used during the Cold War.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Which quote from the passage is an **opinion**?
- A. "Government counts show that one-fourth of all dolphins the Navy has died."
  - B. "In the first place, humans should leave dolphins where they belong."
  - C. "We have about 110 dolphins today in special programs based in California and Hawaii."
  - D. "They were trained for combat duty in the Persian Gulf in 1987."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Which persuasive technique is used in the following sentence?
- "It's wrong to remove them from their families and hold them in pens."
- A. glittering generalities
  - B. emotional appeal
  - C. citing statistics
  - D. bandwagon approach
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Which persuasive technique is used when Rick O'Barry, who trained dolphins in the famous *Flipper* TV series, states
- "The military itself refers to these creatures as 'advanced biological weapons systems.' But, of course, it classifies much of this dangerous work as top secret."
- A. testimonial
  - B. glittering generalities
  - C. citing statistics
  - D. bandwagon approach
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Under which subheading would you find information describing how dolphins have contributed to science?
- A. Top Secret
  - B. Right for the Job
  - C. "Keep them in the Wild"
  - D. "Better Off With Us"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The author uses comparison and contrast as the main text structure in order to
- A. explain reasons why the Navy should keep the "dolphin fleet."
  - B. persuade the Navy to release the "dolphin fleet."
  - C. describe the positions of the Navy and animal rights groups.
  - D. tell the history of how dolphins became trained for undersea jobs.

## **Pre-Test - Persuasive**

### **Ways Citizens Can Contribute to the Conservation of Wild Birds**

Birds are beautiful creatures that deserve to be treated with respect. Right now, birds aren't getting the respect they deserve. In fact, many wild and rare birds are in danger. It is everyone's responsibility to keep these birds safe. Protecting birds is easier than you may think. Here are some ways you can help with the conservation of these beautiful creatures.

#### **Create Backyard Habitat**

Creating backyard habitat is something nearly everyone can do.

**Provide food.** Provide plenty of natural bird food by planting native plants that bear small berries or that support ample insect populations. A bird feeder is also useful for attracting many birds. Position feeders to avoid deadly window collisions.

**Plant shelter.** Birds require dense cover, like shrubs and evergreen trees, especially during winter.

**Furnish water.** Commercial bird baths, small pools, and natural ponds are surefire ways to attract birds, especially if water is dripping or moving.

**Supply nest sites.** Put up a birdhouse for cavity-nesting birds like chickadees and wrens, and platforms for robins and barn swallows.

For more information on creating habitat, contact your state wildlife agency or the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program.

#### **Think Before You Spray**

Each year 4 million tons of pesticides are applied in the United States exposing 672 million birds to the harmful effects of these chemicals. One-tenth of those exposed, or 67 million birds, are estimated to die as an immediate result. Before using pesticides, consider the following alternatives.

**Exercise prevention first.** For example, drain away standing water in your yard; elevate stacks of wood off the ground and move them away from your house; use naturally pest- and disease-resistant native plants; and rotate vegetables in your garden from year to year.

**Use non-chemical controls.** Mulch, spade, hoe, or pull weeds in the garden.

**Frequently mow and water** (if supplies permit) your grass to encourage a resistant, healthy lawn.

**Use low-impact pesticides.** If you must use chemicals, use the most specific chemical pesticides for your need. Always follow label instructions.

**Learn more.** Many sources of information on pesticides and plant care can be found at bookstores and libraries, or on the Internet. Contact your county agricultural extension agent with any questions.

For more information on pesticides, contact the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Division of Environmental Contaminants.

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### **Be a Responsible Cat Owner**

Biologists estimate that free-ranging cats kill hundreds of millions of birds each year. The number of pet cats in the United States has grown from 30 million in 1970 to 60 million in 1990. In addition, millions of stray and feral cats roam our cities, suburbs, and rural areas.

Remember, cats need care all their lives. Keep only as many cats as you can manage. If you don't want your cat anymore, do not release it into a rural area. Contact your local animal shelter or animal welfare organization instead.

Keep your cat indoors whenever possible. It's safer for your cat as well as for wildlife.

Spay or neuter your cat. There are millions of kittens and cats already born that need homes and human care.

Locate bird feeders away from heavy cover so cats cannot surprise unsuspecting birds.

For more information on bird-friendly cat ownership, contact the American Bird Conservancy's Cats Indoors!

### **Get Involved in Community Planning**

Community decision makers are usually receptive to input from citizens, especially if they have a good understanding of the issues.

Listen to what your county commissioners or land use planners are saying about future use and zoning of lands in your area. Make sure those plans consider the interests of wildlife, as well as other members of the community. Remember that "green space" raises property values and improves the quality of life for everyone.

### **Join a Conservation Group**

A good way to become more informed about birds is to join a related organization; options span a broad spectrum, from animal welfare leagues to sporting groups to garden clubs. Simple interaction with other people who share your basic interests is likely to give you a more informed viewpoint about bird conservation and amplify your opinions.

### **Volunteer at a Refuge or Park**

Make a truly significant contribution by volunteering at a wildlife refuge, park, or other wildlife sanctuary. You may be able to help with litter control, trail maintenance, guiding tours for civic or school groups, developing a bird or tree list, or starting a nest-box program. Few facilities would turn down an offer of some additional help.

Join or start a support or "Friends" group at your nearest national wildlife refuge or park. These groups provide a consistent source of volunteer support. The help you provide can make a real contribution to the future of wild birds.

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### Donate Your Old Binoculars

Give new life to your old binoculars by passing them on to new birding enthusiasts. If your old binoculars are in good condition, or only need a little work, they can be refurbished and given to a budding birdwatcher. Check with local nature centers or bird groups for binocular recycling programs.

### Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day!

Share your interest, enjoyment, and concern with others. Find and attend an IMBD event in your community, or better yet, start something yourself. Integrate IMBD into a conversation, lecture, class, newsletter, or exhibit; host a bird walk or shade-grown coffee hour; or purchase IMBD products for use or sale.

Celebrating IMBD is a good way to generate community spirit, ensure a better environment, and raise awareness about and promote the conservation of migratory birds and the habitats they need to survive.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The author uses problem and solution as the text structure of the passage **mainly** to
- A. describe how conservation groups help birds.
  - B. show readers how to set up habitats for birds.
  - C. offer suggestions to readers on protecting birds.
  - D. explain that humans can sometimes endanger birds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The author uses subheadings **mainly** to
- A. describe the benefits of helping to protect birds.
  - B. separate the tips for protecting birds into sections.
  - C. compare the different dangers that birds encounter.
  - D. show what parts of the passage are most important.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Which **best** summarizes the passage?
- A. Migratory bird populations face many different kinds of dangers. Volunteering at a refuge or park can make a real contribution to the future of wild birds. There are many ways that people can help protect wild birds.
  - B. Migratory bird populations face many different kinds of dangers. Pesticides are extremely harmful to birds. Free-ranging cats kill hundreds of millions of birds each year. There are many ways that people can help protect wild birds.
  - C. There are many ways that people can help protect wild birds. Bird feeders are a useful way to attract birds. Old binoculars can be donated to a nature center or bird watching group.
  - D. Old binoculars can be donated to a nature center or bird watching group. A good way to become more informed about birds is to join a group. Types of groups include sporting groups and garden clubs. Free-ranging cats kill hundreds of millions of birds each year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Which persuasive technique does the author use in the "Get Involved in Community Planning" section?
- A. testimonials
  - B. bandwagon approach
  - C. statistics
  - D. glittering generalities

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the author's position that volunteering can make a significant contribution?
- A. "Provide plenty of natural bird food by planting native plants that bear small berries or that support ample insect populations."
  - B. "Simple interaction with other people who share your basic interests is likely to give you a more informed viewpoint about bird conservation and amplify your opinions."
  - C. "Many sources of information about pesticides and plant care can be found at bookstores and libraries, or on the Internet."
  - D. "You may be able to help with litter control, trail maintenance, guiding tours for civic or school groups, developing a bird or tree list, or starting a nest-box program."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Which statement based on the passage is an **opinion**?
- A. Small berries and insects are a natural form of bird food.
  - B. Sharing your interest with others is a good way to generate community spirit.
  - C. Local nature centers may have programs for recycling binoculars.
  - D. Information about pesticides can be found at bookstores and libraries.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. The author's purpose in writing this passage is to
- A. convince readers to find ways to protect wild birds.
  - B. inform readers of ways to contribute to conservation.
  - C. explain why rare and wild birds are in danger.
  - D. describe steps to take to get involved and volunteer.