



Grade 4

Weekly Assessments

Read the article “Swimming to Survive” before answering Numbers 1 through 5.

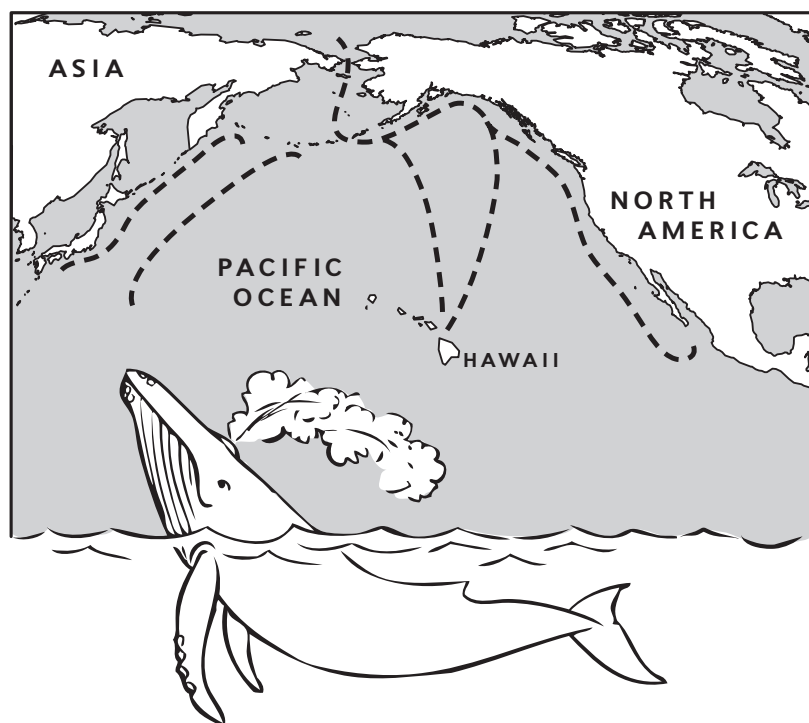
Swimming to Survive

If you could walk four miles in one hour, how many hours would it take for you to walk 100 miles? You would have to walk for 25 hours! Did you know that when humpback whales migrate they travel 100 miles at this speed without stopping? Some humpback whales migrate from Central America to Antarctica without stopping. That’s more than 5,000 miles! Other humpbacks travel from Hawaii to Alaska, a distance of about 3,000 miles.

Whales live in all of Earth’s oceans. Each group has its own migration route. The map below shows routes taken by humpbacks in the North Pacific Ocean.

From North to South

Why do humpbacks and other whales make this incredible journey? Whales spend the cold winter months in warm water, where they have babies called calves. As summer approaches, the whales head to colder waters. There, they feast on millions of tiny fish and shrimp called krill. Krill thrive in the icy waters near the Arctic and Antarctic.



If the whales remained in the warmer water year-round they would not have enough to eat. One whale needs as much as 3,000 pounds of food a day. In fact, the whales fatten up on krill before leaving the cold waters. They eat very little on their long migration to warm waters. Instead, they live off the fat stored in their bodies.

How do whales know their migration routes? Scientists are unsure how the whales know which direction to head. Perhaps they learn the routes by traveling with older whales.

Protecting the Whales

Years ago, whales were killed for their blubber, or fat, and their meat. Most of the hunters were unaware of their effect on the whale population. In the North Pacific, only about 1,400 humpbacks remained in 1966. To preserve humpbacks, the whales were listed as an endangered species. It is illegal to kill a humpback whale. This has caused the number of whales to increase greatly. Today, about 21,000 humpbacks live in the North Pacific. As a precaution, humpbacks are still listed as endangered.

Amazing Creatures

Adult humpback females are about 60 feet long. Males are a little smaller. These whales are mostly gray. However, they have white markings on their bellies and the underside of their fins. These markings are one-of-a-kind, like a fingerprint. Scientists use the markings to follow specific whales as they migrate.

Humpbacks are famous for jumping out of the water. They also slap the water with their fins, tails, or heads. This creates a tremendous splash! Why do they jump? Maybe it's a way to communicate with other whales or attract a mate. Maybe it's just for fun!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Now answer Numbers 1 through 5. Base your answers on “Swimming to Survive.”

- 1 Which details belong in a summary of the article? Underline **three** details in the list below.

Summary of “Swimming to Survive”

There are millions of krill in the ocean.

Humpbacks need a lot of food to survive.

People are working to protect humpbacks.

Only 1,400 humpbacks were alive in 1966.

Humpbacks migrate for important reasons.

Humpbacks can slap the water with their heads.

- 2 Read the sentence from the article.

Scientists are unsure how the whales know which direction to head.

If *sure* means “certain,” what does unsure mean?

- Ⓐ not certain
- Ⓑ certain again
- Ⓒ always certain
- Ⓓ wanting to be certain

3 Choose **two** sentences that tell why whales migrate.

- Ⓐ They want to find food.
- Ⓑ They want to attract a mate.
- Ⓒ They need to escape hunters.
- Ⓓ They are going to have babies.
- Ⓔ They are visiting other whales.
- Ⓕ They need to get rid of their fat.

4 Read the sentence from the article.

As a precaution, humpbacks are still listed as endangered.

If *caution* means “a warning about a problem,” what does precaution mean?

- Ⓐ a warning about a problem again
- Ⓑ in favor of warning about a problem
- Ⓒ a warning before a problem happens
- Ⓓ being against warning about problems

- 5** This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Which sentence **best** describes the main idea of the article?

- (A)** Whales must swim to survive.
- (B)** Migration helps whales survive.
- (C)** We must save humpback whales.
- (D)** Whales travel thousands of miles.

Part B: Which sentence from the article **best** supports your answer in part A?

- (A)** "Other humpbacks travel from Hawaii to Alaska, a distance of about 3,000 miles."
- (B)** "As summer approaches, the whales head to colder waters."
- (C)** "If the whales remained in the warmer water year-round they would not have enough to eat."
- (D)** "They eat very little on their long migration to warm waters."

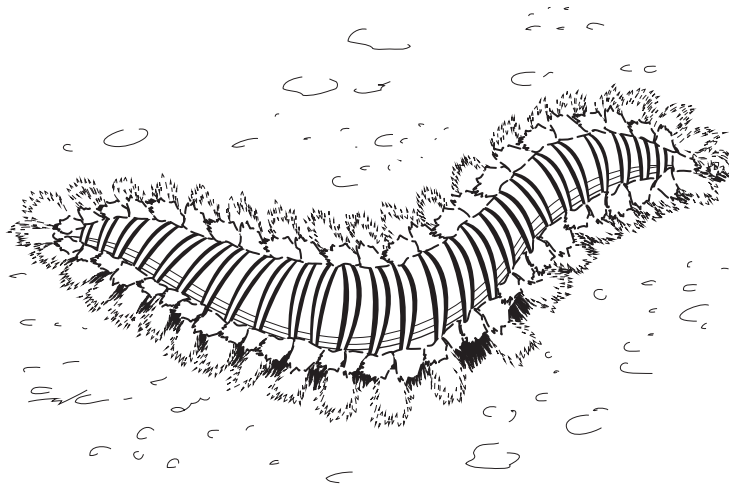
Read the article “Fireworms” before answering Numbers 6 through 10.

Fireworms

The fireworm lives in the tropical waters of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Most fireworms are three to four inches long, but some have grown as long as fourteen inches. These creatures are flat. They have tufts of white bristles along their sides. The tufts look like paint brushes, but they break easily if touched.

The size and shape of the fireworm are not the only things that set it apart. Another irregular fireworm trait is that it gives off light. Females use this light to attract males. The lighted female fireworms spin on the surface of the water. When the males see the light from the females, they flash their own lights. Then the males dart to the surface and bob up and down in the water. Scientists are able to predict exactly when this entire process will take place. On dark summer nights, the water glows green as the fireworms engage in this eerie dance.

Scientists believe that fireworms may also use the light to defend themselves. The light may be used to distract or mislead their predators.



Fireworms also defend themselves with their bristles. This behavior keeps other creatures from getting too close. If a person touches a fireworm, the bristles will break off and stick into the person's skin. This releases poison into the wound that makes the area sore. It also causes an uncomfortable burning sensation on the skin. It is this reaction that gives the fireworm its name.

There are several ways to treat a wound from a fireworm. Covering the wound with tape helps remove the bristles. Washing the area with rubbing alcohol stops the burning sensation.

Fireworms would rather hide than fight. They are nonaggressive creatures. They often hide in areas covered with seagrass so they can get lost in the undergrowth. Unless you know where to look, you may never see a fireworm.

Once in a while, fireworms are found on objects that float onto shore. Some fireworms have even ended up in tanks at stores that sell tropical fish. Most fireworms live in coral reefs, but they would not live more than about 500 feet deep. Other fireworms live in the sea under stones. Some even live on mud bottoms. They eat shrimp, clams, and mussels, but their favorite food is coral.

Fireworms eat both soft and hard coral. When looking at a coral reef, it is easy to tell where fireworms have been eating. They eat coral down to its skeleton. Wherever fireworms feed, the coral is left with only the white tips of its bones showing.

Now answer Numbers 6 through 10. Base your answers on “Fireworms.”

- 6 What happens when male fireworms see the light of female fireworms? Pick **two** choices.
- Ⓐ They glow green.
 - Ⓑ They do an eerie dance.
 - Ⓒ They flash their own light.
 - Ⓓ They hurry toward the light.
 - Ⓔ They stop flashing their own light.
 - Ⓕ They move away from the flashing.

- 7 Read the sentence from “Fireworms.”

The light may be used to distract or mislead their predators.

If *lead* means “to guide,” what does mislead mean?

- Ⓐ lead again
- Ⓑ lead quickly
- Ⓒ lead in the wrong direction
- Ⓓ lead the wrong way on purpose

- 8 Underline the sentence that states the main idea of the paragraph below.

Fireworms also defend themselves with their bristles. This behavior keeps other creatures from getting too close. If a person touches a fireworm, the bristles will break off and stick into the person's skin. This releases poison into the wound that makes the area sore. It also causes an uncomfortable burning sensation on the skin. It is this reaction that gives the fireworm its name.

- 9 Read the sentence from the article.

They are nonaggressive creatures.

If *aggressive* means "ready to fight," what does nonaggressive mean?

- Ⓐ not ready to fight
- Ⓑ getting attacked
- Ⓒ fighting again
- Ⓓ feeling angry

- 10** This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Which sentence **best** describes the main idea of the article?

- ☐ (A) Fireworms light up.
- ☐ (B) Fireworms eat coral.
- ☐ (C) Fireworms like to dance at night.
- ☐ (D) Fireworms are interesting creatures.

Part B: Which sentence from the article **best** supports your answer in part A?

- ☐ (A) "The size and shape of the fireworm are not the only things that set it apart."
- ☐ (B) "There are several ways to treat a wound from a fireworm."
- ☐ (C) "Unless you know where to look, you may never see a fireworm."
- ☐ (D) "Some fireworms have even ended up in tanks at stores that sell tropical fish."



Now answer Number 11. Base your answer on “Swimming to Survive” and “Fireworms.”

- [illegible]

Question	Correct Answer	Content Focus	CCSS	Complexity
1	see below	Summarize	RI.4.2	DOK 2
2	A	Prefixes	L.4.4b	DOK 2
3	A, D	Main Idea and Key Details	RI.4.2	DOK 1
4	C	Prefixes	L.4.4b	DOK 2
5A	B	Main Idea and Key Details	RI.4.2	DOK 2
5B	C	Main Idea and Key Details/ Text Evidence	RI.4.2/ RI.4.1	DOK 2
6	C, D	Main Idea and Key Details	RI.4.2	DOK 1
7	C	Prefixes	L.4.4b	DOK 2
8	see below	Main Idea and Key Details	RI.4.2	DOK 1
9	A	Prefixes	L.4.4b	DOK 2
10A	D	Main Idea and Key Details	RI.4.2	DOK 2
10B	A	Main Idea and Key Details/ Text Evidence	RI.4.2/ RI.4.1	DOK 2
11	see below	Writing About Text	W.4.9b	DOK 4
Comprehension 1, 3, 5A, 5B, 6, 8, 10A, 10B			/12	%
Vocabulary 2, 4, 7, 9			/8	%
Total Weekly Assessment Score			/20	%

- 1 Students should underline the following details to include in a summary:
- Humpbacks need a lot of food to survive.
 - People are working to protect humpbacks.
 - Humpbacks migrate for important reasons.
- 8 Students should underline the following sentence:
- Fireworms also defend themselves with their bristles.
- 11 To receive full credit for the response, the following information should be included: Fireworms eat coral and small sea creatures that live in coral. They have natural defenses like tufts that inject poison if they are touched; they also glow to scare and confuse predators. Humpback whales migrate to have babies and to eat. They eat tons of food at a time and store it in their blubber. They don't protect themselves; people create laws to protect them.