Saving Hawaiian Monk Seals

Marine animal experts are on a mission. They want to save Hawaiian monk seals from becoming **extinct**. Extinct means "no longer existing."

Today, about 1,200 seals live near the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Experts fear that the population will drop in the next five years. "The clock is ticking," says scientist Jen Palmer.

Experts worry that the seals are not getting enough food. Many of the pups are thin and are not living past their first few years. Scientists are trying to figure out why.

Other scientists are monitoring the monk seals’ habitat for pollution. A **habitat** is a place in nature where an animal or a plant lives. "Every person takes a very tiny bit of the puzzle, and you hope at some point you...put it all together and it makes a pretty clear picture," says scientist Charles Littnan.
“Saving Hawaiian Monk Seals” Questions

_____ 1. The main idea of this passage is:
   a. Scientists are trying to find out what is causing the drop in the monk seal population.
   b. Scientists are trying to end pollution in the waters around Hawaii.
   c. Scientists are urging people to be more aware of the pollution they create.
   d. Scientists are trying to learn about what the monk seal eats.

_____ 2. Which is not a detail from this passage?
   a. Twelve hundred monk seals live near Hawaii.
   b. The monk seal population is expected to drop in the next 5 years.
   c. Monk seals eat fish and octopus.
   d. Many seal pups are not surviving until adulthood.

_____ 3. Jen Palmer said, “The clock is ticking.” What does that mean?
   a. Palmer is timing how long it takes for a habitat to become polluted.
   b. Palmer is timing how long it takes for a monk seal to catch its food.
   c. Palmer thinks that the monk seal is waiting for a good time to change their habitats.
   d. Palmer is worried that we are running out of time to save the monk seal.

_____ 4. The author include a quote from Charles Littnan, because
   a. the author wanted the readers to know how the scientists are working together.
   b. the author wanted to include scientific data from Littnan.
   c. the author wanted to include a scientist's perspective on the working conditions in Hawaii.
   d. all of the above.

_____ 5. Choose one detail from the passage and describe how that detail supports the main idea.

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“Saving Hawaiian Monk Seals” Answer Sheet

1. What is the main idea of this passage?
   a. Scientists are trying to find out what is causing the drop in the monk seal population.
   b. Scientists are trying to end pollution in the waters around Hawaii.
   c. Scientists are urging people to be more aware of the pollution they create.
   d. Scientists are trying to learn about what the monk seal eats.

2. Which is not a detail from this passage?
   a. Twelve hundred monk seals live near Hawaii.
   b. The monk seal population is expected to drop in the next 5 years.
   c. Monk seals eat a lot of fish and octopus.
   d. Many seal pups are not surviving until adulthood.

3. Jen Palmer said, “The clock is ticking.” What does that mean?
   a. Palmer is timing how long it takes for a habitat to become polluted.
   b. Palmer is timing how long it takes for a monk seal to catch its food.
   c. Palmer thinks that the monk seal is waiting for a good time to change their habitats.
   d. Palmer is worried that we are running out of time to save the monk seal.

4. The author included a quote from Charles Littnan, because
   a. the author wanted the readers to know how the scientists are working together.
   b. the author wanted to include scientific data from Littnan.
   c. the author wanted to include a scientist’s perspective on the working conditions in Hawaii.
   d. all of the above.

5. Choose one detail from the passage and describe how that detail supports the main idea.

   Answers will vary. The students should write one detail and connect it to the main idea.

   Suggested Additional Vocabulary: monitor, pollution

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