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NZ tells Japan's whalers to stay at home

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20th November, 2007

THE ARTICLE

New Zealand's Prime Minister Helen Clarke has told a Japanese whaling fleet to stay at home and not head to the Antarctic to hunt for whales. She accused the whalers of lying to the world by pretending to be on a scientific research expedition. Japan's whale-hunting ships left for the Southern Hemisphere on November 18th, led by the 8,000-ton Nisshin Maru. It intends to hunt and kill over 1,000 whales, including 50 of the protected humpback whale. It is the first time anyone has hunted this species since a 1963 ban put it under international protection. Although the moratorium has protected the creatures for four decades, their numbers are still only at 30 percent of those before commercial whaling began. Ms Clark said the research was a "deception" and that most of the whale meat would end up in Japanese supermarkets.

The whaling fleet will be surrounded by controversy for the next six months. Environmentalists have vowed to disrupt the expedition as much as possible and their ships are now heading to the Antarctic. A Greenpeace activist Dave Walsh told the Associated Press that his ship was already hot on the heels of the fleet. He said he would shadow it in the South Pacific and try to reduce the number of whales caught. Last year's hunt ended in the death of one of the whalers following a fire on the Nisshin Maru. There were many dangerous showdowns between environmental groups and the whaling ships, including one instance of a Japanese vessel being rammed. The fleet's leader Hajime Ishikawa called Greenpeace environmental terrorists. "Their violence is unforgivable...We must fight against their hypocrisy and lies," he said.

WARM-UPS

1. WHALING: Walk around the class and talk to other students about different whales and whaling. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your original partner(s) and share what you found out.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

prime ministers / fleets / lying / research expeditions / Southern Hemisphere / bans / supermarkets / controversy / showdowns / terrorists / hypocrisy

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. TWO-MINUTE WHALE DEBATES: Have the following fun 2-minute debates. Students A strongly believe in the first argument, students B the second. Change pairs often.

- a. Whales are best. Vs. Sharks are best.
- b. It's OK to eat whale meat. Vs. It's wrong to eat whale meat.
- c. I want to go whale watching. Vs. How boring.
- d. Whaling should be banned. Vs. Whaling for scientific research is OK.
- e. Whales are too intelligent to be eaten. Vs. So are cows and pigs.
- f. Whale meat is a part of many cultural diets. Vs. Those cultures must change.
- g. Whaling is cruel. Vs. So is boxing.
- h. Whaling is the same as fishing. Vs. Absolutely not so.

4. HUNTING: In pairs / groups, rank these forms of hunting, from 1 (= OK) to 10 (= absolutely not OK). Are there any situations when hunting might be acceptable?

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| • whales | • foxes |
| • kangaroos | • elephants |
| • pandas | • deer |
| • seals | • other _____ |

5. WHALES: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with whales. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. QUICK DEBATE: Students A think it's OK for Japan to hunt a few whales for research purposes; Students B think no one should ever be allowed to hunt and kill whales. Debate this with your partners. Change partners often.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| a. New Zealand wants Japanese tourists to stay in Japan. | T / F |
| b. A Japanese research expedition wants to kill over 1,000 whales. | T / F |
| c. Whalers will hunt a whale that has been protected for four decades. | T / F |
| d. NZ's leader said the whales are for supermarkets, not research. | T / F |
| e. The whaling fleets are already being followed by environmentalists. | T / F |
| f. Greenpeace will track the whalers six months from now. | T / F |
| g. A whaler was killed last year in the jaws of a whale. | T / F |
| h. The whalers accused Greenpeace of belonging to Al Qaeda. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. fleet | a. ban |
| 2. expedition | b. following closely |
| 3. intends | c. war of words |
| 4. moratorium | d. voyage |
| 5. deception | e. obstruct |
| 6. controversy | f. lie |
| 7. disrupt | g. armada |
| 8. hot on the heels of | h. insincerity |
| 9. showdowns | i. plans |
| 10. hypocrisy | j. clashes |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. stay at home and not | a. and lies |
| 2. It intends to hunt and | b. up in Japanese supermarkets |
| 3. the moratorium has protected the | c. was a "deception" |
| 4. Ms Clark said the research | d. controversy |
| 5. most of the whale meat would end | e. on the heels of the fleet |
| 6. surrounded by | f. head to the Antarctic |
| 7. Environmentalists have vowed | g. kill over 1,000 whales |
| 8. his ship was already hot | h. showdowns |
| 9. There were many dangerous | i. creatures for four decades |
| 10. We must fight against their hypocrisy | j. to disrupt the expedition |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

New Zealand's Prime Minister Helen Clarke has told a Japanese whaling _____ to stay at home and not head to the Antarctic to hunt for whales. She _____ the whalers of lying to the world by _____ to be on a scientific research expedition. Japan's whale-hunting ships left for the Southern Hemisphere on November 18th, led by the 8,000-ton *Nisshin Maru*. It _____ to hunt and kill over 1,000 whales, including 50 of the protected humpback whale. It is the first time anyone has hunted this _____ since a 1963 ban put it under international protection. Although the moratorium has protected the _____ for four decades, their numbers are still only at 30 percent of those before _____ whaling began. Ms Clark said the research was a "deception" and that most of the whale meat would _____ in Japanese supermarkets.

creatures

accused

species

end up

fleet

commercial

pretending

intends

The whaling fleet will be surrounded by _____ for the next six months. Environmentalists have vowed to _____ the expedition as much as possible and their ships are now heading to the Antarctic. A Greenpeace _____ Dave Walsh told the Associated Press that his ship was already hot on the _____ of the fleet. He said he would _____ it in the South Pacific and try to reduce the number of whales caught. Last year's hunt ended in the death of one of the whalers following a fire on the *Nisshin Maru*. There were many dangerous _____ between environmental groups and the whaling ships, including one instance of a Japanese _____ being rammed. The fleet's leader Hajime Ishikawa called Greenpeace environmental terrorists. "Their violence is unforgivable...We must fight against their _____ and lies," he said.

heels

hypocrisy

disrupt

showdowns

vessel

controversy

shadow

activist

LISTENING: Listen and fill in the spaces.

New Zealand's Prime Minister Helen Clarke has told a Japanese whaling fleet to stay at home _____ the Antarctic to hunt for whales. She accused the whalers of lying to the world _____ on a scientific research expedition. Japan's whale-hunting ships left for the Southern Hemisphere on November 18th, _____ Nisshin Maru. It _____ kill over 1,000 whales, including 50 of the protected humpback whale. It is the first time anyone has hunted this species since a 1963 _____ international protection. Although the moratorium has protected the creatures for four decades, their numbers _____ percent of those before commercial whaling began. Ms Clark said the research was a "deception" and that most of the whale _____ Japanese supermarkets.

The whaling fleet will be _____ for the next six months. Environmentalists have vowed to _____ as much as possible and their ships are now heading to the Antarctic. A Greenpeace activist Dave Walsh told the Associated Press that his ship was already _____ the fleet. He said he would shadow it in the South Pacific _____ the number of whales caught. Last year's hunt ended in the death of one of the whalers _____ Nisshin Maru. There were many dangerous showdowns between environmental groups and the whaling ships, including one instance of a Japanese _____. The fleet's leader Hajime Ishikawa called Greenpeace environmental terrorists. "Their violence is unforgivable...We must fight against _____," he said.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'hunt' and 'kill'.

hunt	kill
-------------	-------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stay • accused • led • 1963 • numbers • end up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vowed • activist • shadow • fire • rammed • unforgivable
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

STUDENT WHALING SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about whaling in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
 - b) What are your feelings after reading the article?
 - c) Do you agree with whaling?
 - d) Why do you think the Japanese whalers expect the world to believe they are on a scientific research expedition?
 - e) What kind of research do you think needs over 1,000 whales?
 - f) Do you think Japan should be punished for breaking the 4-decade-old moratorium on whaling?
 - g) Would you like to try whale meat?
 - h) Do you think it's OK to eat the meat of whales that are not protected or endangered?
 - i) Do you think most Japanese buy the whale meat in supermarkets?
-

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Would you like to join the environmentalists and disrupt the whalers?
- c) What do you think the Japanese think of the environmentalists?
- d) Why do you think the USA is so in favor of the death penalty while it also sees itself as a champion of human rights?
- e) Do you think the environmentalists make any difference?
- f) Do you agree that Greenpeace are, or are similar to, environmental terrorists?
- g) What "hypocrisy and lies" do you think the Japanese ship's leader is talking about?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Hajime Ishikawa?
- i) Did you like this discussion?

LANGUAGE

CORRECT WORD: Put the correct words from a–d below in the article.

New Zealand's Prime Minister Helen Clarke has told a Japanese whaling fleet to stay at home and not (1) _____ to the Antarctic to hunt for whales. She accused the whalers of lying to the world by pretending to be (2) _____ a scientific research expedition. Japan's whale-hunting ships left for the Southern Hemisphere on November 18th, (3) _____ by the 8,000-ton *Nisshin Maru*. It intends to hunt and kill over 1,000 whales, including 50 of the protected humpback whale. It is the first time anyone has hunted (4) _____ species since a 1963 ban put it (5) _____ international protection. Although the moratorium has protected the creatures for four decades, their numbers are still only at 30 percent of those before commercial whaling began. Ms Clark said the research was a "deception" and that most of the whale meat would end (6) _____ in Japanese supermarkets.

The whaling fleet will be surrounded (7) _____ controversy for the next six months. Environmentalists have (8) _____ to disrupt the expedition as much as possible and their ships are now heading to the Antarctic. A Greenpeace activist Dave Walsh told the Associated Press that his ship was already hot on the (9) _____ of the fleet. He said he would (10) _____ it in the South Pacific and try to reduce the number of whales caught. Last year's hunt ended in the death of one of the whalers following a fire on the *Nisshin Maru*. There were many dangerous showdowns between environmental groups and the whaling ships, including one (11) _____ of a Japanese vessel being rammed. The fleet's leader Hajime Ishikawa called Greenpeace environmental terrorists. "Their violence is unforgivable...We must fight against their (12) _____ and lies," he said.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) heading | (b) head | (c) header | (d) headed |
| 2. | (a) for | (b) in | (c) on | (d) to |
| 3. | (a) leads | (b) leading | (c) leader | (d) led |
| 4. | (a) this | (b) these | (c) them | (d) those |
| 5. | (a) over | (b) for | (c) under | (d) by |
| 6. | (a) by | (b) of | (c) out | (d) up |
| 7. | (a) by | (b) of | (c) out | (d) up |
| 8. | (a) veered | (b) vowed | (c) viewed | (d) voided |
| 9. | (a) shins | (b) toes | (c) ankles | (d) heels |
| 10. | (a) shadow | (b) shade | (c) shady | (d) shadowy |
| 11. | (a) instant | (b) instance | (c) instances | (d) instants |
| 12. | (a) hypocritical | (b) hippos | (c) hypocrisy | (d) hypocrite |

WRITING:

Write about *whaling* for 10 minutes. Correct your partner's paper.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about countries that support whaling. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. HUNTING: Make a poster about different kinds of hunting around the world. Include information on how endangered the animals are. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all include similar things?

4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about a day in the life of a Japanese whaler. Include imaginary interviews with the whaler and an environmental activist who is hot on his/her heels.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down new words and expressions.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to the leader of the Japanese fleet Hajime Ishikawa. Ask him three questions about his expedition. Give him three pieces of advice on what to do over the next six months. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

a. F b. T c. T d. T e. T f. F g. F h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. fleet | a. armada |
| 2. expedition | b. voyage |
| 3. intends | c. plans |
| 4. moratorium | d. ban |
| 5. deception | e. lie |
| 6. controversy | f. war of words |
| 7. disrupt | g. obstruct |
| 8. hot on the heels of | h. following closely |
| 9. showdowns | i. clashes |
| 10. hypocrisy | j. insincerity |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. stay at home and not | a. head to the Antarctic |
| 2. It intends to hunt and | b. kill over 1,000 whales |
| 3. the moratorium has protected the | c. creatures for four decades |
| 4. Ms Clark said the research | d. was a "deception" |
| 5. most of the whale meat would end | e. up in Japanese supermarkets |
| 6. surrounded by | f. controversy |
| 7. Environmentalists have vowed | g. to disrupt the expedition |
| 8. his ship was already hot | h. on the heels of the fleet |
| 9. There were many dangerous | i. showdowns |
| 10. We must fight against their hypocrisy | j. and lies |

GAP FILL:

NZ tells Japan's whalers to stay at home

New Zealand's Prime Minister Helen Clarke has told a Japanese whaling **fleet** to stay at home and not head to the Antarctic to hunt for whales. She **accused** the whalers of lying to the world by **pretending** to be on a scientific research expedition. Japan's whale-hunting ships left for the Southern Hemisphere on November 18th, led by the 8,000-ton *Nisshin Maru*. It **intends** to hunt and kill over 1,000 whales, including 50 of the protected humpback whale. It is the first time anyone has hunted this **species** since a 1963 ban put it under international protection. Although the moratorium has protected the **creatures** for four decades, their numbers are still only at 30 percent of those before **commercial** whaling began. Ms Clark said the research was a "deception" and that most of the whale meat would **end up** in Japanese supermarkets.

The whaling fleet will be surrounded by **controversy** for the next six months. Environmentalists have vowed to **disrupt** the expedition as much as possible and their ships are now heading to the Antarctic. A Greenpeace **activist** Dave Walsh told the Associated Press that his ship was already hot on the **heels** of the fleet. He said he would **shadow** it in the South Pacific and try to reduce the number of whales caught. Last year's hunt ended in the death of one of the whalers following a fire on the *Nisshin Maru*. There were many dangerous **showdowns** between environmental groups and the whaling ships, including one instance of a Japanese **vessel** being rammed. The fleet's leader Hajime Ishikawa called Greenpeace environmental terrorists. "Their violence is unforgivable...We must fight against their **hypocrisy** and lies," he said.

LANGUAGE WORK

1 - b 2 - c 3 - d 4 - a 5 - c 6 - d 7 - a 8 - b 9 - d 10 - a 11 - b 12 - c