

## Reading

- Read the selection and answer each question.

### Bowhead Whales and Their Songs

by Laura Lane

- <sup>1</sup> The waters of Fram Strait lie between Greenland and Norway's Svalbard islands. In this dark and icy place, the bowhead whales are singing.
- <sup>2</sup> The world has four groups of bowhead whales. The one that lives near the Svalbard islands is the smallest. It is also in danger of becoming extinct, or dying out. Dr. Kate Stafford and her team at the University of Washington tried to find some of these whales by listening for their sounds. They used underwater microphones to record the whales for a year. The recordings helped them count the whales and study their songs.

#### Lost Whales . . . Found!

- <sup>3</sup> The researchers heard bowhead songs in Fram Strait during the winter and spring. "We know there are at least 66 singers. This is important because there are thought to be fewer than 100 whales in the group," Dr. Stafford says.
- <sup>4</sup> The singing suggests the whales are gathering in those cold waters. The discovery could help save them. This group was once thought to be extinct. Then, in the 1980s, there were more and more sightings. But scientists still knew little about where these whales spent the winters. The songs have shown us their home.

#### Cold-Water Whale

- <sup>5</sup> The bowhead has 11 inches of fat, or blubber, under its skin. This makes it the only baleen whale that can live in the Arctic all year round. During the winters, it stays under the ice. It uses its huge head to break breathing holes through the frozen water when needed. It spends the summers swimming through ice that is broken or melting.
- <sup>6</sup> The bowhead whale has no teeth. Instead, its mouth is built partly from a hard material called baleen. The whale swims along with its mouth open. It catches tiny hard-shelled creatures along with some fish. Then it swallows its catch.
- <sup>7</sup> People once used the whale's blubber and baleen to make many things, from lamp oil to buggy whips. As early as the 1600s, people hunted bowheads. This brought them close to extinction.

<sup>8</sup> Nations began working together to protect whales in 1946. The Inuit and other native peoples are still allowed to hunt bowheads, but only a small number.

### Singing in the Dark

<sup>9</sup> Dr. Stafford and her team thought the whales would make simple grunts and moans. The songs turned out to be anything but simple.

<sup>10</sup> The animals have different call types for different purposes. For example, they make sounds called "upsweeps." They then listen for the echoes to help them find their way through waters that have little illumination. Another kind of singing comes from male bowheads. "It may be males showing off to one another. Or it may be to win over females," Dr. Stafford says.

<sup>11</sup> Dr. Stafford has worked hard to answer questions about the bowheads. Along the way, she has come to admire the beauty of these whales and their ice-cold home.

### Fram Strait and the Surrounding Area



- 1 The article tells about Fram Strait. How does the map help readers understand what a strait is?

- (A) by showing the number of whales in Fram Strait
- (B) by showing the water temperature in Fram Strait
- (C) by showing that Fram Strait is near many big rivers
- (D) by showing that Fram Strait is a narrow body of water

- 2 Read the sentences from paragraph 2.

*They used underwater microphones to record the whales for a year. The recordings helped them count the whales and study their songs.*

Based on the sentences above, what can microphones record?

- (A) tastes
  - (B) sounds
  - (C) feelings
  - (D) thoughts
- 3 According to paragraph 5, what is one effect of bowhead whales' thick blubber?
- (A) The whales are not easy to hunt.
  - (B) The whales do not need any teeth.
  - (C) The whales can live in cold water all year long.
  - (D) The whales can make breathing holes in the ice.

- 4 Read the sentence from paragraph 6.

*Instead, its mouth is built partly from a hard material called baleen.*

Which meaning of material is used above?

- (A) tool
- (B) cloth
- (C) what something is made of
- (D) information in a piece of writing

- 5 Describe the main text structure in paragraphs 7 and 8. How does the author arrange the information in these paragraphs, and why? Use details from the article to support your answer.

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- 6 Read the sentence from paragraph 10.

*They then listen for the echoes to help them find their way through waters that have little illumination.*

Think about the Latin root *lumin*. What is the meaning of illumination above?

- A heat
  - B light
  - C food
  - D weight
- 7 Which paragraph does the map best help readers understand?
- A paragraph 1
  - B paragraph 5
  - C paragraph 7
  - D paragraph 9