

LOOK CLOSER

Weekly In-Depth Reading Comprehension



Can you:

- Find the facts?
- Interpret the information?
- Work out why the journalist wrote and presented the story in the way that they did?



13 **FirstNews** ISSUE 278 30 SEPTEMBER – 6 OCTOBER 2011

ANIMAL NEWS

Up close with a giant whale shark



IMAGINE swimming next to an animal that could fit you in his mouth and still have room to spare...

That didn't worry five-year-old snorkeller Kieran Liu, who was happy to swim next to this great whale shark.

It was the first time young American Kieran had been swimming in the open ocean.

"On the day, we were the first ones in the water," said photographer Eric Cheng.

"Kieran was suited up first and just jumped in some 20 miles

from land. He was amazing, not once did he display any fear."

Luckily this 10m (40ft) long whale prefers plankton and fish eggs.

Every year in late summer, huge numbers of little tunny fish gather in the waters off Isla Mujeres in Mexico to spawn.

This attracts up to 100 whale sharks at a time, and a few brave humans, like Kieran, go into the water with them.



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Trunk art...

KARISHMA, an Asian elephant at Whipsnade Zoo, has been showcasing her artistic talents recently.

The 13-year-old elephant grasps the paint brush with her trunk and moves it around the paper on the easel.

Elizabeth Becker, elephant keeper at the zoo, said: "Karishma really enjoys painting, and it demonstrates just how dexterous elephants' trunks really are."

The female elephant has been at Whipsnade Zoo for four years and has

given birth to one baby called George.

A special event called Elephant Appreciation Day is taking place at the zoo this weekend and members of the public will be able to see Karishma's painting collection.

The appreciation day is trying to raise money for the Zoological Society of London's elephant conservation projects around the world.

Nap time at the nursery



A KEEPER tucks in a group of giant panda cubs in the research base of the Giant Panda Breeding Centre in China.

China has launched its once-a-decade panda census, to try and work out how many of the endangered animals live in the wild and how to boost their numbers.

The census is also important to find out about the pandas' living conditions, ages and if there has been any change in their habitat.

According to the count a decade ago, there are 1,596 pandas left in the wild in China.

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ANIMAL NEWS - READING COMPREHENSION



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Carefully read the article 'Up close with a giant whale shark' and then answer the following questions:

 1) Are these sentences true or false? Write **T** or **F** by each one.

Whale sharks eat humans.

Kieran encountered the whale shark the first time he swam out in the ocean.

 2) Why are whale sharks attracted to the sea off Mexico?

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 3) Find and copy two words that mean 'worry'?

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 4) Why has the journalist included a quotation in this article?

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 5) Give three ways that 'Up close with a giant whale shark' is written in the style of a newspaper article?

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ANIMAL NEWS

5) What details in the article show that the journalist is presenting Kieran Liu as courageous to have got into the water with a whale shark?



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6) Sharks are often portrayed in newspapers, films and other media as frightening creatures. What impression of the whale shark do you think the journalist wants to give?



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EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- A.** Think of and write down an alternative headline for the 'Up close with a giant whale shark' article.
- B.** How does the type of language used in 'Sharks help in hunt for cures' in the **Science** section on page 24 of **First News** differ from the language used in 'Up close with a giant whale shark'?
- C.** Read and explore the rest of the **Animal News** stories in **First News**.
- D.** Head to the **First News** website www.firstnews.co.uk for more news and to find out how you can join in.

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