

## Grade 4 • Unit 1 • Week 2 Assessment

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read this passage. Then answer the questions.

**Shark!**

- 1 A sign near Marconi Beach warns people: Avoid swimming near seals! The number of seals has been increasing on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Seals are now a common sight in the waters off the coast.
- 2 The seals don't pose a big danger themselves. But seals attract great white sharks. Seals are a favorite food of these large predators. So it's a good idea to stay away from seals near a beach.
- 3 Shark sightings have led to many beach closings. Marconi Beach was shut down twice in 2013. Nearby town beaches were also closed. In at least one case, the shark was a harmless basking shark. It was not a great white.
- 4 Shark attacks are rare. In 2012, a great white attacked a man at Cape Cod beach. It was the first shark attack there in seventy-seven years. The man survived.
- 5 In fact, humans are not a prized food of great whites. But sometimes these sharks confuse human swimmers with seals.
- 6 Area towns work to teach people about shark safety. Swimmers should follow a few simple rules. Don't swim near seals. Get out of the water when seals are nearby. Don't swim alone, especially at dawn or dusk. Don't wear black wetsuits and flippers.
- 7 Beach closings and shark sightings worry some businesspeople. Cape Cod's number one industry is tourism. Visitors spend millions of dollars every year on the Cape.

- 8 Shop owners and others say that seals and sharks are a big draw. Local stores sell shark merchandise, such as clothing and toys. Thousands of people take "seal cruises" each summer. Some of them only go because they hope to see a great white shark.

	Great White Sharks	Basking Sharks
<b>size</b>	up to 20 feet	up to 40 feet
<b>coloring</b>	gray top, white bottom	grayish brown to black
<b>fin (most easily seen)</b>	triangle-shaped	long, rounded end
<b>diet</b>	seals, sea lions, dolphins, other sharks	plankton (very tiny floating plants or animals)
<b>human attacks</b>	rare	none

continued

1. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.
- Part A** What is the main idea of this passage?
- A Sharks have been spotted near Cape Cod beaches.
  - B Seals are harmless to people, but they draw sharks.
  - C Both seals and sharks are now more common in Cape Cod, which may turn out to be good for business.
  - D An increase in seals on Cape Cod has led to shark sightings and beach closings.

**Part B** Choose **two** sentences from the passage that support the main idea in Part A.

- A "The number of seals has been increasing on Cape Cod, Massachusetts."
- B "The seals don't pose a big danger themselves."
- C "Seals are a favorite food of these large predators."
- D "Shark sightings have led to many beach closings."
- E "Beach closings and shark sightings worry some businesspeople."
- F "Visitors spend millions of dollars every year on the Cape."

2. This question has **two** parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

**Part A** According to the passage, why should swimmers stay away from seals on a beach?

- A A large number of seals may be swimming together.
- B The seals may try to protect their babies.
- C Sharks may be swimming near the seals.
- D Seals may confuse humans with sharks.

**Part B** In which sentence does the author give evidence to support the answer to Part A?

- A "Seals are now a common sight in the waters off the coast."
- B "But seals attract great white sharks."
- C "In fact, humans are not a prized food of great whites."
- D "Get out of the water when seals are nearby."

continued

3. What information in the chart helps explain why people sometimes think basking sharks are great whites?
- A Both sharks eat seals.
  - B Both sharks have rounded fins.
  - C Both sharks are large and grayish.
  - D Both sharks attack humans.
4. What is the meaning of the word **confuse** as it is used in paragraph 5?
- A mix up
  - B swallow
  - C chase after
  - D catch

5. Reread the paragraph below. Choose **one** sentence that states the main idea of the paragraph. Underline the sentence you choose.

Area towns work to teach people about shark safety. Swimmers should follow a few simple rules. Don't swim near seals. Get out of the water when seals are nearby. Don't swim alone, especially at dawn or dusk. Don't wear black wetsuits and flippers.

6. In paragraph 8, which phrase gives a clue to the meaning of the word **merchandise**?

- A "seals and sharks"
- B "a big draw"
- C "local stores sell"
- D "thousands of people"

7. Read each statement in the table below. Decide whether the information in the statement is found in the **Passage**, the **Chart**, or **both**. Place a check in the boxes to record your answers.

Statements	Passage	Chart	Both
Basking sharks are harmless to people.			
Basking sharks grow longer than great white sharks.			
Beaches have been closed because of shark sightings.			
Seals are a favorite food of great white sharks.			
Tiny plants and animals are the main food of basking sharks.			
Some visitors hope to see great white sharks.			

8. In paragraph 7, the vowel sound in beach is the same as the vowel sound in—

A they.  
 B wear.  
 C see.  
 D when.

9. Choose **two** reasons why shark sightings worry some businesspeople on Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

A Stores will run out of shark products.  
 B People will stop taking seal cruises.  
 C Visitors will stop eating fish.  
 D Sharks will scare visitors away.  
 E Businesses will start losing money.  
 F The sharks will eat too many seals.

10. Why do towns tell people not to wear black wetsuits and flippers when swimming near the beach?

A The water is very cold.  
 B They will look like seals.  
 C Wetsuits are expensive.  
 D Sharks also have flippers.

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