

Lesson Plan

Rescues at Sea and on Shore

Book: *Animal Rescues*

Series: Rescues in Focus

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students compare and contrast two texts about ways people rescue animals.

Supplies

- *Animal Rescues* book
- “What Is a Beached Whale?” web page on the Wonderopolis website:
<https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/what-is-a-beached-whale>

Before the Activity

Read through the *Animal Rescues* book, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Animal Rescues explains what it takes to become an animal rescuer. Chapter 1 (“Gulf Oil Spill”) describes how the brown pelican was affected by an oil spill that happened in the Gulf of Mexico. Ask the students the following questions:

- How did the oil spill affect animals in the ocean? (Possible answers: It gave fish heart problems; sea turtles had trouble laying eggs; pelicans had trouble flying.)
- How did rescue workers help the animals? (Possible answers: Rescue workers took animals to animal shelters; they washed pelicans with vegetable oil to break down the oil from the oil spill; they brought animals to wildlife refuges.)

Then read the “What Is a Beached Whale?” web page on the Wonderopolis website and ask the students the following questions:

- What happens to a whale when it becomes stranded on land? (Possible answers: The whale becomes dehydrated quickly; it begins to suffocate and collapse under its own weight.)
- What are a few reasons that whales are getting stranded on land? (Possible answers: A whale might collide with a ship and become injured or disoriented; the water where a whale lives could become polluted with chemicals; sonar could confuse the whales.)

In both situations, animals could be put in danger by human actions. But human rescuers also worked to help the animals. Ask students to think of other animals that human actions can harm. Ask students to think of ways humans could help these animals, too. Call on a few volunteers to share their ideas with the class.

Evaluation

Could students answer questions about the Gulf Oil Spill rescue based on the information in the book? Could they answer questions about beached whales based on the web page? Could they think of other animals that humans could harm or help?

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 3 (RI 3.9).