

2nd Nine Weeks Benchmark Study Guide

What to Do About Underwater Noise

Anyone who lives in a busy city knows that the world is a noisy place. We humans rely on many machines-planes, cars, trains, construction and farming machinery, and machines in factories-to make modern life happen. As it turns out, we make a racket on land and in the ocean. Our boats, oil drilling equipment, and 5 military sonar activities generate all kinds of noise. Some scientists have become concerned that underwater noise is negatively affecting sea life, particularly whales. In recent years, studies of the impact of underwater noise have been completed, and the results are mixed. Neither side-not the environmentalists who want to protect marine life, nor the Navy, which conducts sonar tests for our national defense-is 10 convinced of the right thing to do.

Some environmentalists are concerned that underwater noise has a negative impact on certain species, particularly beaked whales. Whales communicate with each other by sending out sound waves. Scientists suspect that the increase in 15 underwater noise has interfered with the whales' ability to "hear" one another. They 15 also are concerned that high levels of underwater noise upset the whales. Like humans, whales might also enjoy some 15 peace and quiet. But where can they go? To find out how noise affects whales, scientists attached digital recording devices to beaked whales, pilot whales, and melon-headed whales during a two-year period. These devices measured the sounds the whales made and also tracked their 20 movements. This allowed scientists to determine how the whales reacted when they were in noisy environments. The data suggested that beaked whales were especially sensitive to even low levels of underwater noise. It interrupted their communications and caused them to change their diving and feeding patterns. The results suggested that we should change our attitude toward underwater noise if 25 we want our whale populations to survive.

7RL4

1. What word best replaces the word "generate" in line 5?
 - A. began
 - B. prevented
 - C. constructed
 - D. produced

7RL6

2. Which sentence should be added to the final paragraph of “What to do About Underwater Noise” to show that the writer acknowledges an opposing opinion?
- A. To cause the suffering to numerous whales and other sea creatures would be a crime.
 - B. To let things remain as they are might be the best course of action given the evidence.
 - C. To continue studying the effects of underwater noise is just a waste of time and money.
 - D. To ignore the studies that show underwater noise does have an impact is perhaps selfish.

L71

3. What sentence structure is the sentence below?

In recent years, studies of the impact of underwater noise have been completed, but the results are mixed.

- A. simple
- B. compound
- C. complex
- D. compound-complex

What Underwater Noise?

Many studies have been conducted to determine whether underwater noise negatively affects sea life. One study concluded that sonar activity and other noises caused beaked whales to change their behaviors. Another study showed there was no such effect.

5 The United States Navy is also concerned about the issue of underwater noise. The Navy uses sonar, a system of using sound waves to detect objects underwater, as a tool to gather information about our oceans and protect the nation. If that tool were causing harm to the creatures of the sea, then the Navy would want to know it.

10 The issue became critical after an incident in 2000 in which 17 whales became stranded in the Bahamas. It was thought at the time that the use of Navy sonar nearby was the cause. The Navy collaborated with well-known marine scientific organizations to conduct a study. The researchers attached recording tags to different whales in order to track their activity. Unlike previous studies, 15 researchers also generated specific sounds-sonar pings and the calls of other sea creatures. Then they measured the whales’ reactions. At first, some of the beaked whales responded cautiously to the noises, but they did not change their overall behavior. Nor did the other types of whales in the study react fearfully. The Navy concluded that even high levels of sonar and other underwater noise did not affect 20 underwater creatures. As a result,

the Navy has argued that it should be allowed to continue its sonar activities in the world's oceans.

While everyone will probably sleep better if there is less noise in the world, the soundness of the U.S. Navy study is also comforting. Underwater noise has no negative impact on marine life.

L71

4. What sentence structure is the sentence below?

The researchers attached recording tags to different whales because they wanted to track their activity.

- A. simple
- B. compound
- C. complex
- D. compound-complex

7RL1

5. Which sentence BEST supports the Navy's claim in "What Underwater Noise?" about the impact of sonar on certain whales?

- A. Some whales initially reacted negatively to nearby sonar activity.
- B. No whales changed their overall behaviors in response to sonar activity.
- C. Beaked whales changed their feeding patterns in response to sonar activity.
- D. All whales use sound waves to communicate with one another over distances.

7RL4

6. What does the author mean by the phrase "The Navy collaborated" mean in line 10?

- A. Worked alone
- B. Worked in partnership
- C. Took charge
- D. Led the study

7RL5

7. What is the author say that sonar is used as in the text?

- A. A tool to distinguish different sounds
- B. A tool to distinguish different whale types
- C. A tool to track whale activity
- D. A tool to gather information

7RL3

8. According to the two articles, what statement can be concluded about sonar?

- A. "Neither side—not the environmentalists who want to protect marine life, nor the Navy, which conducts sonar tests for our national defense—is convinced of the right thing to do."
- B. "As a result, the Navy has argued that it should be allowed to continue its sonar activities in the world's oceans."
- C. "Scientists suspect that the increase in underwater noise has interfered with the whales' ability to "hear" one another."
- D. "If that tool were causing harm to the creatures of the sea, then the Navy would want to know it."

7L1

9. What sentence structure is the sentence below?

The United States Navy is also concerned about the issue of underwater noise.

- A. Simple
- B. Compound
- C. Complex
- D. Compound/complex

7L.5

10. Identify the figurative language below.

The stars danced playfully in the moonlight sky.

- A. simile
- B. metaphor
- C. personification
- D. onomatopoeia

7L.5

11. Identify the figurative language below from Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.

"He saw nothing and heard nothing but he could feel his heart pounding and then he heard the clack on stone and the leaping, dropping clicks of a small rock falling.

- A. simile
- B. metaphor
- C. alliteration
- D. onomatopoeia

7L2

12. Why is there a comma between the two underlined words?

Slippery, dangerous roads are common after a storm.

- A. slippery and dangerous are adjectives
- B. **slippery and dangerous are coordinate adjectives**
- C. slippery and dangerous are non-coordinate adjectives
- D. slippery and dangerous are nouns.

7L1

13. Identify the underlined group of words below.

Slippery, dangerous roads are common after a storm.

- A. **prepositional phrase**
- B. independent clause
- C. dependent clause
- D. appositive phrase

7L1

14. Identify the underlined group of words below.

The insect, a large cockroach with hairy legs, is crawling across the kitchen table.

- A. prepositional phrase
- B. independent clause
- C. dependent clause
- D. **appositive phrase**

7L1

15. Identify the part of speech for the two underlined words in the sentence below.

The grill was too hot, so he went to his kitchen and got an oven mitt.

- A. **too** is an adjective and **to** is a preposition
- B. **too** is a preposition and **to** is an adjective
- C. **too is an adverb and to is a preposition**
- D. **too** is an preposition and **to** is an adverb

L71

16. Identify the underlined words below.

the man is.

- A. run-on
- B. **fragment**
- C. misplaced modifier
- D. dependent clause

7L.1

17. Identify the verb phrase in the following sentence.

The rain had begun to fall, and I drifted off to sleep.

- A. The rain
- B. had begun
- C. and
- D. off to sleep

7L1

18. Identify the underlined portion from the sentence below.

Where is the ice cream that was in the freezer?

- A. independent clause
- B. dependent clause
- C. appositive phrase

Item 19

7.W.3, W4, W8, W9/7.RI.1/7.RL.1

Writing Task

Imagine you are one of the 17 whales from the “What Underground Noise?” article. In 2000, you were stranded in the Bahamas. Write a narrative about your experience with the underwater noise. What happened to get you off course? What did it sound like and what did it do to you?

Be sure to:

- Begin your essay with a “grabber” that gets your reader’s attention.
- Use dialogue.
- Be creative!
- Include descriptive words.
- Use figurative language.
- Organize your narrative essay using words, phrases, and clauses to connect your ideas and to clarify your experience.
- Make sure your paper flows smoothly.
- Do NOT end your paper with “The End”!

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Item 20

7RW1, W4, W8, W9/ RI1, RL1

Writing Task

There is a conflict between animal activists concerned with marine life and other users of the planet's oceans (like the Navy). What are the dangers of underwater noise on certain species like whales?

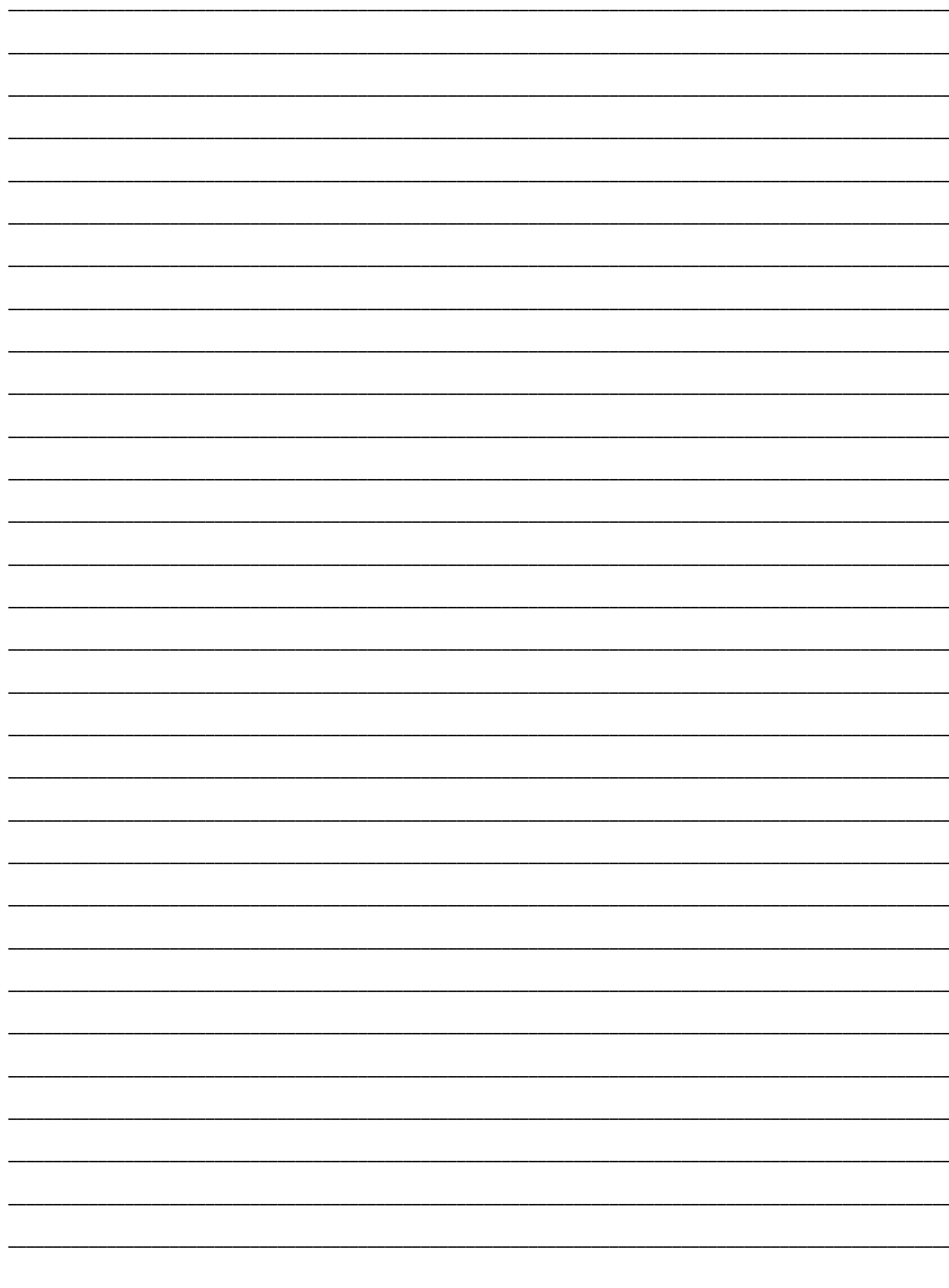
Review the claims on both sides using the two articles. Choose a side, and then write an argumentative essay supporting either side of the debate. You will argue that underwater noise affects certain species like whales OR that underwater noise has no affect on marine life.

Be sure to use information from **BOTH** passages to support the side you have chosen. Write your answer on the lines provided.

Be sure to:

- Introduce your claim.
- Support your claim with logical reasoning and relevant evidence from the passages.
- Acknowledge alternate or opposing claims.

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Here's some other terms you MIGHT need to know.

Direct quote- the exact words of someone

Example: For twenty years after these experiences, I tried hard to forget the senseless deaths, the inhumane injustices, the vicious German shepherds, and children getting arrested right on the streets of downtown Birmingham.
~ from Carolyn Maull McKinstry's *While the World Watched*

Internal monologue- a character is thinking and you get to hear the character's thoughts

Example: "Where did I put my phone and my car keys? I am going to be late for class!" Kristi wondered as she dashed out of her bedroom door.

Dialogue- two or more characters having a conversation

Example: "Mama," I called in desperation. "Agnes won't let me comb her hair, and I'm going to be late for Sunday school. I need to go."
"Well, just leave her here this morning," Mama told me. "You go on to church. Agnes can stay home with me."

Connotation- can be positive or negative, an idea or feeling that a word gives you

Example: slender (positive), scrawny (negative)

Singular possession- a singular noun showing ownership

Example: Thomas County Middle School's students

Plural possession- a plural noun showing ownership

Example: the cheerleaders' routine

Proper noun: The Japanese saw....

Proper Adjective: Japanese food

Appositive/appositive phrase: An appositive is a noun or noun phrase that renames another noun right beside it. The appositive can be a short or long combination of words.

Example: During the dinner conversation, Clifford, the messiest eater at the table, spewed mashed potatoes like an erupting volcano.

Independent clause: a group of words with a subject and a verb, does express a complete thought

Example: We rode bikes.

Dependent clause: a group of words with a subject and verb, does not express a complete thought

Example: We rode bikes after we finished our homework.

Item 20

Look for the following things:

- attention grabbing sentence
- dialogue
- descriptive words
- figurative language
- phrases and clauses to clarify experiences

Item 9:

Example of a Seven-Point Response:

For several decades, Americans have been more aware of the pollution they create. They understand that air gets polluted by emissions from our cars, planes, and other equipment. Water gets polluted by emissions and by use of fertilizers on our lawns and fields. The ground gets polluted by oil run-off from our roads and the trash we throw away. There is also light pollution—the light created by our streetlights and store signs creates a glare that makes it seem as if it is always daytime. And noise pollution occurs in places where there is constant machine activity, such as city streets and even under the ocean. Scientists today are worried that animals are really suffering because of the pollution we humans have created. They say we are causing all kinds of animals to go extinct. It would be good to be more thoughtful about the pollution we create in order to preserve the world's animals.

Noise pollution is one big issue in the world's oceans. Underwater noise pollution is the result of human activity in the water—ships transporting goods around the world, submarines patrolling the waters, and oil refineries drilling and processing oil from beneath the ocean's floor. The noise doesn't bother us humans because we can't hear it, but scientists say that it is upsetting some underwater creatures, especially whales. Some studies have shown that some particular species of whales, including beaked whales, pilot whales, and melon-headed whales, respond negatively to underwater noise. It caused some whales to change their behaviors. Some scientists argue that in particular Navy sonar activities, which use sound waves to explore the ocean, cause the whales to have communication problems. Yet, a Navy study done with other marine life experts has shown no such results. The Navy has argued that as a result it should be allowed to continue its activities.

While there are studies that suggest that animals are not affected by the noise and other kinds of pollution we create, it is not a good idea for anybody to have to live in a polluted environment—humans or animals. Everyone, including the world's animals would be better off if we cut back on the use of fossil fuels and other activities that make the world a dirtier, noisier place.