

November 15, 2016

# Orca Whales

Orca Whales, otherwise known as Killer Whales, are beautiful mammals that are found in most oceans on Earth and are actually considered the largest species in the dolphin family. ( One Green Planet, 2013) There are approximately 50,000 left in the wild and although many are held in captivity, they should not be kept in this environment for multiple reasons. If Orcas continue to be held captive in parks such as SeaWorld, they will not be able to maintain a stable food chain, they will be living in unacceptable cages their entire lives and their lives will be cut short by many years.

The first example of why Orca Whales should not be in captivity is because when they are not in the wild they cannot help to maintain a stable food chain. Orca Whales are at the top of the food chain and help regulate the food flow in the ocean. When they are held captive in places like SeaWorld they cannot do that. If they continue to be taken from the wild and put in captivity the food flow in the ocean will not continue as it should.

Another reason why Orca Whales should not be held in captivity is because their cages in SeaWorld are too small for their size. Orcas would need to swim 1,208 laps around the outside of the tank or 3,105 lengths back and forth (along the longest part of the park's largest tank) to equal what they'd swim in the wild in one day. According to [onegreenplanet.org](http://onegreenplanet.org), if visitors at

parks like SeaWorld were educated "on the life of marine animals in their natural environments, they might stop and consider what these animals have lost in order to entertain them."

Additionally, Orca Whales should not be kept in captivity because their lives are cut short. Did you know that the average male Orca Whale lives between 60-70 years and females live between 80-100 or more years? However, when they are held captive they live, on average, up to nine years. (Seaworld of Hurt, 2014) That is a big difference! One example of orcas dying from not being in the wild is when an Orca named Vicky died of unknown causes at only ten months old. Another example, is when an Orca named Haylen, died of Acute Encephalitis at only two years old. Both of these deaths happened at SeaWorld and both died before they hit nine years old.

It is obvious that Orcas should not be held in captivity for their own health, safety and happiness. If people really care about their well being they would not put the Orca's life in danger for their own enjoyment. If the workers and owners of SeaWorld really cared they would not lie about the health of their Orcas, as they have been known to do.

Orcas must live in the wild where they can help maintain the natural food chain in the the ocean, live in areas where they can swim freely and be allowed to live to the full life expectancy that they are able.

# Bibliography

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Gr 7 Informative  
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W.4 WRITING STRUCTURE	Score
Notes:	3
WRITING DEVELOPMENT	
Notes:	3
W.5 WRITING CONVENTIONS	
Notes:	3

Scorer #1