

Vocabulary Practice A Whale of a Problem

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the vocabulary questions that follow.

Wanda sighed as she looked around her new home.

Where am I? she thought. Wanda, a three-year-old whale calf, was in **captivity**. The rest of her family was free in the ocean. She was **puzzled** because she didn't remember anything. She was confused about how she got here.

Then, she heard the door open. A beautiful lady walked in, and she held a bucket. The bucket was filled with fish. The lady's name was Jennifer, and a shorter boy walked next to her. He would **assist** her in feeding Wanda.

Wanda felt hungry for fish, but it was hard for her to swim fast because she was hurt. She looked at her fin and saw the marks. This must be the problem. She felt weak and needed to get stronger. Her fin would heal with food, rest, and exercise. She would do these things so she could be released back to the wild.

Wanda swam to a **shallow** end of the pool. She saw Jennifer and her helper with buckets full of fish. The fish were **plentiful**. There was a lot for her to eat. She was happy that she did not have to hunt for her fish because she was too weak for that.

Wanda was sure she would feel better when she ate all those fish. Once she filled her stomach, she would figure out how to get back to her family in the wild.

1. What does **captivity** mean?

- a. living in a zoo
- b. living in a pool
- c. swimming free in the ocean
- d. being kept in one place, not free

2. What does the word **puzzled** mean?

- a. interested
- b. confused
- c. excited
- d. lost

4. What does **shallow** mean?

- a. warm water
- b. cold water
- c. not very deep
- d. water for swimming

3. What is the meaning of **assist**?

- a. to help
- b. to watch
- c. to teach
- d. to interfere

5. What does **plentiful** mean?

- a. new
- b. fresh
- c. ready to eat
- d. a large amount of something

