

Sea Hunt

By Glenn Greenberg, with reporting by Bryan Walsh for TIME

Early this year, a court put a stop to Japan's whale hunts in the waters off Antarctica. This month, Japan will offer a plan that would allow it to hunt in the area again.

For whales, 2014 got off to a promising start. In March, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ordered Japan to stop whaling, or hunting whales, in the Southern Ocean.

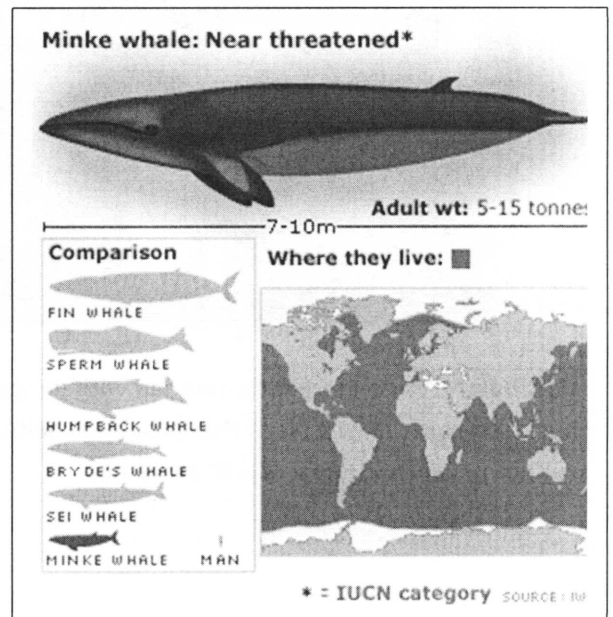
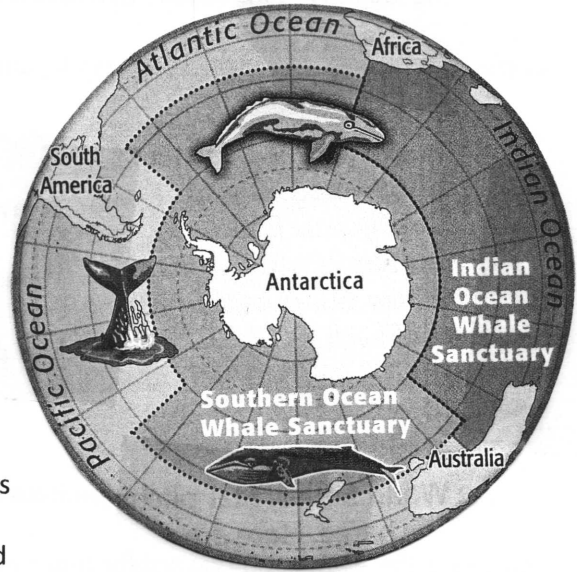
The ICJ in the United Nation's highest court. Japan said it was hunting the mammals for scientific purposes. But the ICJ said there was no scientific reason for Japan's hunts. Still, the ban was only temporary. In September, Japan announced that it planned to start whaling in the region again.

In November, Japan will submit a plan to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) explaining why hunts are necessary for research. Since 2005, Japan has killed around 3,600 minke (*min-ka*) whales in Antarctic waters. Conservationists say Japan is using science as an excuse to kill whales. Much of the whale meat from the hunts ends up in Japanese restaurants and markets.

Leigh Henry works for the World Wildlife Fund. She says Japan wants to show that whales are not **endangered**. "They want to prove that **commercial** whaling can resume," she told Time For Kids.

In the early 20th century, people hunted whales in large numbers. By the 1930s, up to 50,000 whales were killed each year for their meat and oil. To protect whales, nations formed the IWC in 1946.

Forty years later, the IWC put an end to commercial whaling. But some whaling continued. The IWC ban allowed whaling for scientific reasons. And native people in the U.S.

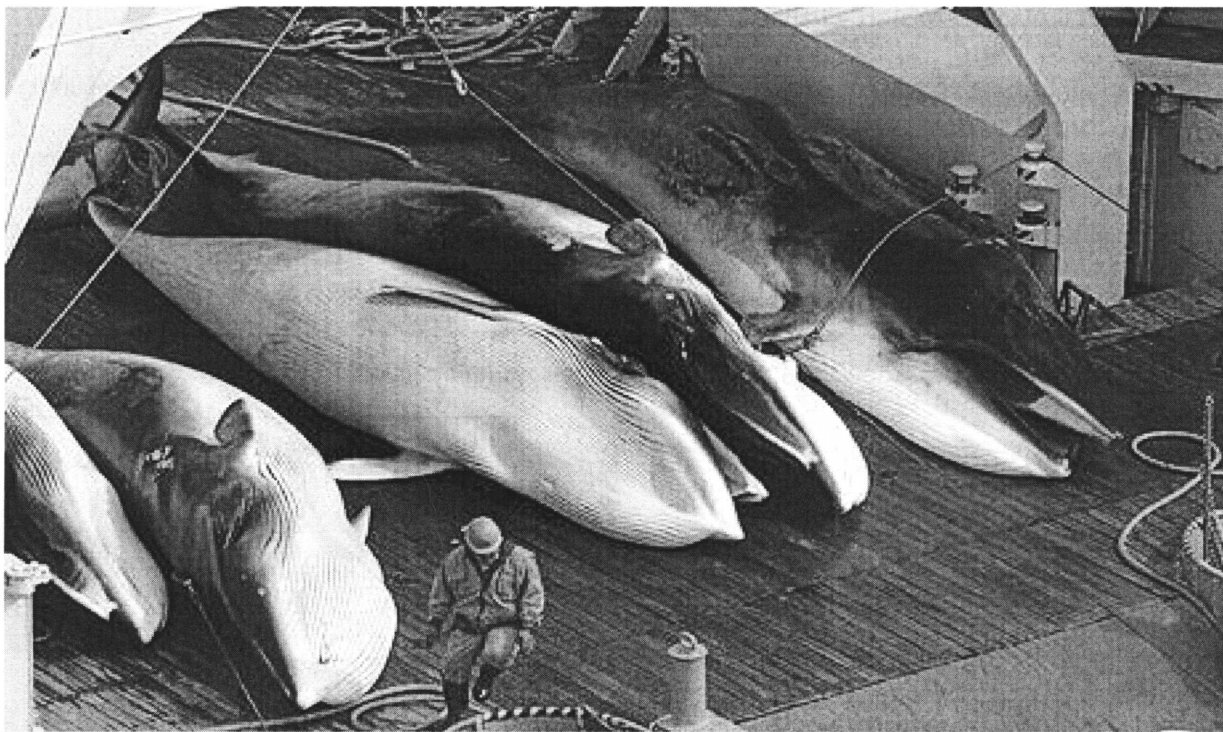


28 and Greenland can hunt whales under strict rules. In 1994, the IWC created a whale **sanctuary** that
29 covers the waters of the Southern Ocean.

30 The Japan Whaling Association says it is wrong for other nations to ask Japan to give up one of
31 its **traditions**. The association compares Japanese being asked to stop eating whale meat with
32 “Americans being asked to stop eating hamburgers.”

33 Under its new research plan, Japan says it will capture fewer minke whales. The country also
34 promises not to hunt fin and humpback whales. But at an IWC meeting in September, Japanese
35 representative Hideki Moronuki said the new program “will not be so different from our past research
36 activities.”

37 Japan does not need permission from the ICJ or the IWC to hunt whales in Antarctic waters. But
38 Henry says there are good reasons for Japan not to ignore guidelines. “Japan is a nation very much
39 about law and order,” she says. “Hopefully, they will feel pressure to follow the rules.”



Vocabulary: *endangered*: threatened with danger or extinction; *commercial*: done for a profit; having to do with business; *sanctuary*: a place that provides shelter or protection; *traditions*: a continuing pattern handed down culture beliefs, customs, practices, values

Directions: Annotate your text and answer the questions below in correct sentences.

- annotation: record connections to the text → questions you have, vocabulary you do not know, your opinion, comments, and text-to-text, text-to-self, text-to-world connections.

Annotations are the written evidence of tracking your thought process as you read, analyze, and engage with text.

Title of Article: _____

Source of Article: _____

1. Citing the line number(s), identify the reason Japan provides for whale hunting.

2. On line 28 we learn the IWC created a sanctuary for whales. Provide a synonym for the word sanctuary and an illustration for your ideal, or perfect sanctuary. Please label your illustration.

Synonym	Illustration

3. In lines 31-32, the text states, "The association compares Japanese being asked to stop eating whale meat with "Americans being asked to stop eating hamburgers." Based on this comparison, how do you know eating whale meat is a valued Japanese tradition?

4. Based on the information in this article, write a claim from Japan's point of view regarding whale hunting.
