

Name: _____ Date: _____

Go to Scope
Online to listen
to the words
and definitions
read aloud.

Vocabulary:

"Please Don't Pet the Shark"

- 1. catastrophic (kat-uh-STROF-ik)** *adjective*; A *catastrophe* (kuh-TAS-truh-fee) is a terrible disaster that causes great suffering or damage. A flood that destroys hundreds of homes and ruins thousands of acres of crops is a catastrophe.

Catastrophic means "involving or causing great damage or suffering," as in, "The oil spill had catastrophic effects on the environment" or "The Red Cross helped the community recover from the catastrophic flood."

- 2. fearsome (FEER-suhm)** *adjective*; Something that is fearsome causes fear. A large, barking dog might be fearsome to some people. A fearsome monster from a scary movie might give you nightmares.

- 3. interaction (in-ter-AK-shuhn)** *noun*; To interact is to talk or do things with other people. You and your friends interact in the hallways between classes.

An interaction is an act of talking or doing things with other people. Your teacher might arrange your desks in groups instead of rows to encourage interaction.

- 4. potential (puh-TEN-shuhl)** *adjective or noun*; As an adjective, *potential* means "possible, or capable of becoming real." The potential side effects of a medicine—like making you tired or dizzy—are side effects that the medicine *could* cause.

As a noun, *potential* can mean "an ability that can lead to success or excellence." If you have potential as a piano player, you have skills or talent that can carry you to greatness. *Potential* can also mean "the chance or possibility that something will develop or become real." Icy roads increase the potential for car accidents.

- 5. skyrocket (SKAHY-rok-it)** *verb*; *Skyrocket* means "to rise or increase quickly to a very high level or amount." In other words, to shoot up like a rocket. If a performer appears on a televised singing competition, her level of fame might skyrocket overnight. If the price of gas suddenly increases by a large amount, you could say the price of gas has skyrocketed.

6. threatened (THRET-uhnd) *adjective*; You're probably familiar with the term *endangered species*—that is, species that are in danger of extinction, which means dying out completely. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service classifies species in this way to raise awareness and provide special protections for these species.

Another category in this classification system is *threatened species*. If a species is classified as threatened, it means the species is at risk of becoming endangered in the future.

In other words, endangered species are at the brink of extinction now, while threatened species are likely to be at the brink of extinction in the future, unless we take actions to protect them.

Directions: Below or on the back of this page, list any other words from the article whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the primary meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence using the word.

Vocabulary Practice

"Please Don't Pet the Shark"

Directions: Below are titles and summaries for imaginary books. Choose the best title for each book. Briefly explain your choices. (There's one title you will not use.)

BOOK TITLES

- A. *Delightful Interactions With Magical Beings*
- B. *Fearsome Creatures*
- C. *Threatened Species: How We Can Help*
- D. *How to Handle Skyrocketing Success*

1. When a celebrity praises Jeannie Tolbert's small bakery on social media, Jeannie's business takes off—big time. People are suddenly traveling from all over the world to try her cookies and cakes. Talk shows want to interview her. Netflix wants to make a show about her. It's amazing! And it's ruining Jeannie's life! What should she do?

Title (A-D): _____ Why I chose this title: _____

2. The fairies in this fantasy novel are not the mysterious and magical beings you might expect. They are dreadful and terrifying!

Title (A-D): _____ Why I chose this title: _____

3. Photographer Kim Brown journeys around the world to explore a pressing question: How can we keep animals that are struggling to survive off the endangered species list?

Title (A-D): _____ Why I chose this title: _____

Directions: Choose the word that is most similar in meaning to each word in bold.

4. **skyrocket**

- Ⓐ decrease
- Ⓑ rise

5. **catastrophic**

- Ⓐ destructive
- Ⓑ successful

6. **potential**

- Ⓐ possible
- Ⓑ unlikely

7. **fearsome**

- Ⓐ delightful
- Ⓑ frightening

Directions: Circle the boldface word that best completes each sentence.

8. The hungry tiger let out a **fearsome/potential** growl.

9. The number of students who miss school because of the flu **skyrockets/interacts** during winter.

10. The weather forecast recommended bringing a light raincoat because of **potential/catastrophic** afternoon showers.