

***Blackfish* Documentary**

Discussion Questions

Students should provide evidence to support their responses.

00:00–27:30

What are some of the reasons why the people in the film became trainers at SeaWorld?

Describe the OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) lawsuit against SeaWorld.

How would you describe the capture of orcas in the 1970s that was depicted in the film?

How do you think the time Tilikum spent at Sealand of the Pacific affected his behavior for the rest of his life?

What are some facts about orcas that were presented in the film based on observations that scientists have made about orcas in the wild?

27:31–01:20:23

How would you describe SeaWorld's actions regarding the separation of mother orcas and their calves?

What conclusions can you draw from SeaWorld's assertions related to the life expectancy of orcas and collapsed dorsal fins vs. scientists' observations of the natural life expectancy and dorsal fins of wild orcas?

Why do you think the orcas discussed in the film attacked their trainers?

How do you think the former SeaWorld trainers felt when they saw orcas in the wild? What makes you think so?

