

Name: _____ Date: _____

Key Vocabulary	
demonstration	a public display of group feelings toward a person or cause
freedom	the ability to move or act without restrictions
orphan	someone who has lost both parents
rehabilitation	the act of restoring someone to a condition of health
vegetarian	a person who does not eat meat

Baby Chick, Revived to Thrive

Note: The Pelican Harbor Seabird Station is a wildlife **rehabilitation** facility.

Megan Ely is a hard-working high school student who still manages to volunteer many hours a week at the Pelican Harbor Seabird Station in Miami. On one of her weekends there, she was called up to the front desk and asked to help a little **orphaned** chick who was in danger of dying. When babies do not have the comfort of a mother or warmth and comfort from another being, they can easily die.

There was no mother hen to adopt this chick as one of her own. Megan became the main caretaker, taking the little chick with her whenever she could. She also became a **vegetarian** after realizing that each individual animal has a personality, like her canine and feline companions at home. As the little chicken grew, Megan realized that he was a rooster, with beautiful red, coppery feathers. He was called Kevin. In the Florida noonday sun during Megan's lunch break at Pelican Harbor, one of the staff snapped a photo of them both napping.



Megan regularly attends **demonstrations** for marine mammal **freedom**. She promotes not eating animals and volunteers tirelessly at animal rescues. She continues to be a consistently compassionate champion for animals in need. She is currently in college pursuing her dream to rescue marine mammals.

“Baby Chick, Revived to Thrive” image and story adapted from *Animal Hero Kids: Voices for the Voiceless* by permission of the author, Susan Hargreaves. Photo: Pelican Harbor Seabird Station

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Comprehension Questions: Baby Chick, Revived to Thrive

1. Why do you think Megan volunteers at the Pelican Harbor Seabird Station?

2. What could cause a baby chick to be in danger of dying?

3. How did caring for the baby chick contribute to Megan's decision to become a **vegetarian**?

4. The article tells us that Megan "attends **demonstrations** for marine mammal **freedom**." Where are there marine mammals who don't have their **freedom**? Why do you think their **freedom** was taken away?

Answer Sheet:

Baby Chick, Revived to Thrive

1. Why do you think Megan volunteers at the Pelican Harbor Seabird Station?

Possible answer: Megan volunteers at the Pelican Harbor Seabird Station because she probably loves birds and wants to help them. (Inferential)

2. What could cause a baby chick to be in danger of dying?

Answer: A baby chick could be in danger of dying if he or she doesn't receive warmth and comfort from another being. (Literal)

3. How did caring for the baby chick contribute to Megan's decision to become a vegetarian?

Possible Answer: Caring for the baby chick contributed to Megan's decision to become a vegetarian because it helped her realize that each individual animal has a unique personality, just as her animal companions do. (Literal)

4. The article tells us that Megan "attends demonstrations for marine mammal freedom." Where are there marine mammals who don't have their freedom? Why do you think their freedom was taken away?

Possible answer: Marine mammals in aquariums and at parks don't have their freedom. Some humans think that it's OK to hold marine mammals captive for entertainment purposes. (Evaluative)