

Blackfish presents mostly just one side of a debate over whether it is right for killer whales to live in captivity. Now that we have an understanding of some of the ideas presented in the award-winning documentary, we will learn more and try to better understand the issue from both sides. We will try to gain an understanding from the perspective of SeaWorld and others who may not agree with the film's claim, as well access a few more sites that provide related information. If you have headphones, please get them. There are numerous video clips you may want to watch on the following sites.

Follow these steps today:

1. Visit the website www.seaworld.com/truth. This website is the best source to counter the arguments made in **Blackfish**.
 - a. Specifically read these documents:
 - 'Truth About **Blackfish** – Why **Blackfish** is Propaganda, Not a Documentary'
 - 'Our Letter'
 - b. You may also watch some of the video clips or read other parts on the website.
2. A famous zoologist and zookeeper, Jack Hanna, supports SeaWorld. <http://ac360.blogs.cnn.com/2013/10/25/jack-hanna-on-blackfish/>
3. Now, the **Blackfish** filmmakers responded to SeaWorld's counterargument. http://blackfishmovie.com/news/blackfish_seaworld_bites_back/15297
4. The Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums is an association representing marine parks. SeaWorld is a member of the AMMPA. This report and other sections of the website support the idea that keeping marine whales in captivity is crucial for humans to understand them and to inspire conservation. http://www.ammpa.org/doc_annualreport.html
5. The article here focuses on a trainer who worked with Tilikum and Keiko (from *Free Willy*). He worked at Sealand at the time of Keltie Byrnes' death, and was the diver who recovered her body. The text describes the filming of *Free Willy* and his thoughts on Tilikum's future, and there is also a video segment. <http://www.cnn.com/2013/10/26/world/americas/orca-trainer-tilikum-keiko/>
6. This site has an opinion article that focuses on the release of Keiko the killer whale. There are also interesting videos you may explore. <http://www.cnn.com/2010/OPINION/02/27/rose.whale.keiko/>
7. This is a study by former SeaWorld trainers Jeffrey Ventre, MD and John Jett, Ph.D. It would take some time to read in its entirety, but there is interesting information including actual recorded life spans of whales in captivity, and information on the dental problems captive killer whales have. <http://theorcaproject.files.wordpress.com/2011/01/keto-tilikum-express-stress-of-orca-captivity.pdf>
8. This is a blog that raises some issues regarding female whales born in captivity and their lack of mothering instincts. <http://thisisplanetoccean.blogspot.com/2013/06/the-death-of-loro-parques-young-orca.html>

Other Resources:

Sea World Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3BCjc9wvVA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VX4GRC6L07w>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xbi_TJYMI-4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uh5Eigt_dhQ

<https://youtu.be/EiT-FQVyoe8>

Review the following sites:

<https://seaworldcares.com/the-facts/truth-about-blackfish/>

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-seaworld-20150606-story.html>

<http://www.voiceofsandiego.org/topics/news/a-brief-history-of-seaworlds-blackfish-damage-control/>

<http://www.insideseaworld.com/about/response-blackfish>

<http://www.blackfishmovie.com/news/>

<https://www.thedodo.com/the-5-dumbest-things-seaworld--521507954.html>

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/10/23/opinion/seaworld-blackfish-controversy/>

<http://awesomeocean.com/2014/12/04/four-reasons-condemning-seaworld-really-bad-idea/>

<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2014/12/seaworld-killer-whale-orca-science-blackfish>

Extension:

After reviewing all of the information, if you were the CEO of Sea World, how would you have responded to the movie ***Blackfish***? Design a press release to respond to the video, use multiple and varying facts in your response. Design a plan of action to help save your park. How would you change the park in order to bring people back to your park?