

PASSAGE 5

Read the following text and answer the questions that follow:

It would be truly a shocking thing if you thought that a whale was a fish. True it lives and swims in water, and feeds on marine creatures, but there its fish-like characteristics end.

A whale is hot-blooded as you are, it came into the world in the same way as you did, and it is dependent on a sufficient supply of oxygen without which it would die, as you. If for any reason a whale is prevented from coming to the surface to breathe, it drowns. Clearly it is not a fish, for whoever heard of a drowned fish?

Whales are mammals, and they began their history ages ago as land animals. As you know, all life originally came out of water, the first animal forms being marine reptiles which gradually developed other means of locomotion, such as wings and feet. We must think of the forerunners of all the sea mammals, the whales, seals, sea-lions, sea-cows, sea-elephants, walruses, and all their kindred, as great, sprawling antediluvian animals roaming about on their four disproportionately short legs, readily taking to water, but having their proper abode on land. One day, then, a tribe of these ungainly creatures went to sea, and for some reason never came back.

QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions:

- (i) According to the author, there are certain similarities between human beings and whales, there are also some similarities between fish and whales. Fill in the following chart with information from the text:

Similarities between human beings and whales:

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------------------|
| (a) | <u>Hot Blooded</u> | <u>Hot Blooded</u> |
| (b) | <u>Both are born</u> | <u>in same way</u> |
| (c) | <u>Both breathe in</u>
<u>cannot do so</u> | <u>air, and die if</u> |

(d) Both are mammals

2. Similarities between fish and whales:

(a) Both live in water

(b) Both feed on marine creatures

(ii) The author has made out five stages in the process of the evolution of whales from the beginning of life. Develop the following hints and state what they are. One has been done for you.

Stage 1. Life originally appeared in the sea.

Stage 2. First animal forms were marine reptiles

Stage 3. They gradually developed other means of locomotion like wings and feet.

Stage 4. The forerunners of sea mammals were the great sprawling antediluvian animals

Stage 5. One day, a group of ungainly creatures went to sea for good.

(iii) Some of the statements below are True and some are False. Write 'T' or 'F' accordingly in the boxes on the right.

(a) The forerunners of whales were land animals. [T]

(b) The whale can never drown. [F]

(c) The whale is a kind of marine reptile. [T]

(d) Like man the whale is a mammal. [T]

(e) The whale can also live on land. [F]

(iv) Answer the following questions as briefly as you can:

(a) Suggest an appropriate heading for the text.

Whales and their past

(b) Why will it be a shocking thing to think that a whale is a fish?

b/c It is a shocking thing to think that a whale is a fish
b/c It is a mammal, and comes out to surface to breathe

(c) Why can't a fish drown?

A fish cannot drown because its all life is about living in water from where it fulfills its every need. Hence it has nothing to do with the concept of drowning.

3. Given below are the meanings of four words which you will find in the above passage. Pick up the words and put them into the appropriate gaps on the right.

- (i) living in the sea marine creatures
- (ii) any of the class or animals which feed their young with milk from the breast mammals
- (iii) movement locomotion
- (iv) cold-blooded egg-laying animal that creeps or crawls seals