

Japan Resumes Commercial Whaling

Transcript:

Japan is about to start hunting whales for profit despite international criticism. Erh, it's last commercial hunting was back in 1986 but the country never really stopped hunting. Erh, it continued carrying out what it called research missions where hundreds of whales were captured but the country has now withdrawn itself from the International Whaling Commission and it's first whaling fleet is set to take off today. David Campanelli has more:



Research?

Japanese whaling ships at work. Once a target is identified, an explosive harpoon is fired that penetrates deep into the whale killing the animal either on impact or in the subsequent struggle. Spring loaded claws are released and embed themselves deep into the whale's body. There's no escape. Ships like this one are said by the Japanese authorities to be carrying out commercial research. But critics say this was just a cover so Japan could hunt whales for food - as the meat from the whales killed for research usually did end up for sale. One restaurant in Tokyo has a long history of serving up such dishes as whale sashimi and steaks.

"Whale is a healthy food with high protein and low calories."

Japan's decision comes into effect on July the First when a flotilla of ships is expected to set sail. Their hunt, however, will be confined to Japanese territorial waters and the country's exclusive economic zone.

"Save the whale!"

"When do we want it?"

"Now!"

But even so, Japan has faced a firestorm of criticism from anti-whaling countries and these environmentalists in London say interest in eating the animal is falling.

"I don't understand why Japan is doing this. I think there is no major domestic market for whale meat."

Like other whaling nations, Norway and Iceland, Japan argues hunting and eating whales are part of its culture. They say no whale species are threatened, but opposition isn't just about sustainability but the inhumanity of killing such majestic mammals. David Campanelli, BBC News.

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commercial	culture	exclusive	impact	missions
confined	domestic	healthy	inhumanity	threatened
criticism	environmentalists	identified	majestic	research



Use the words in the box to complete the transcript. Some words appear more than once:

Japan is about to start hunting whales for profit despite international _____. Erh, it's last _____ hunting was back in 1986 but the country never really stopped hunting. Erh, it continued carrying out what it called research _____ where hundreds of whales were captured but the country has now withdrawn itself from the International Whaling Commission and it's first whaling fleet is set to take off today. David Campanelli has more:

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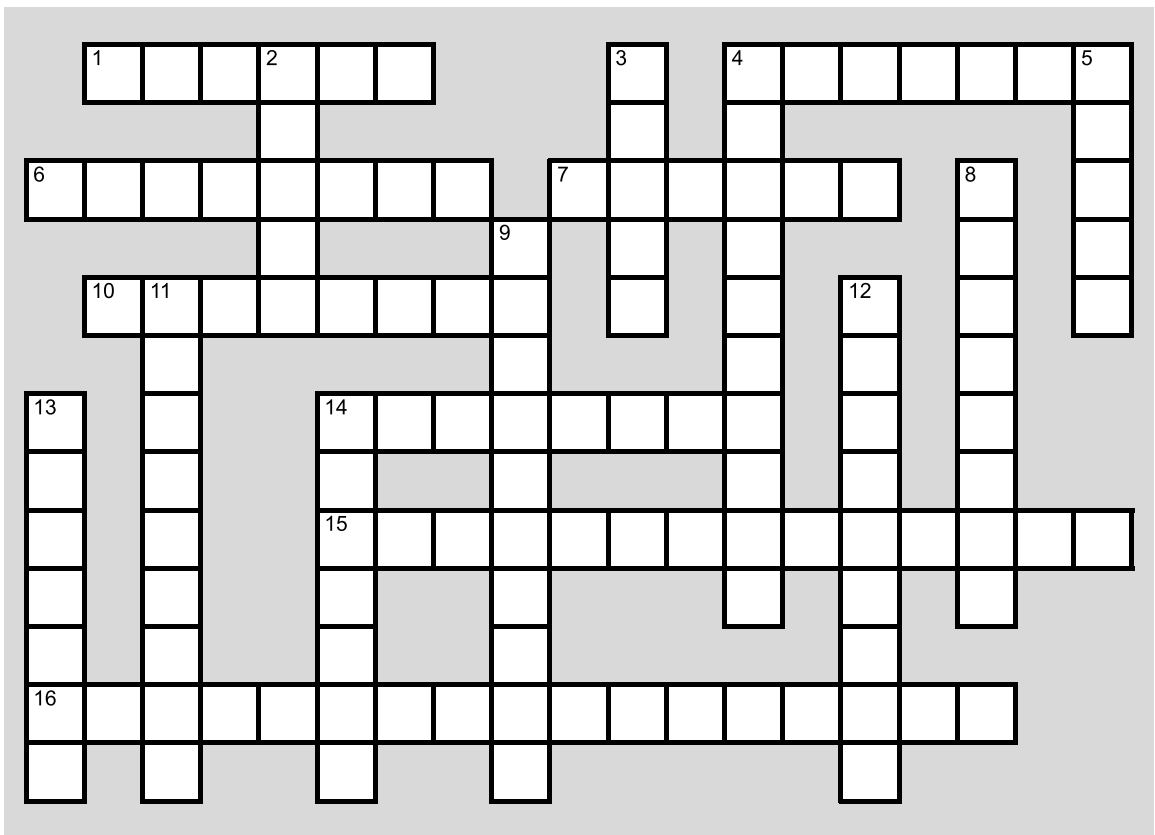
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Across ➡

- 1 Hit (usually strongly) (6)
- 4 The values of a society (7)
- 6 A kind of fight (8)
- 7 A warm-blooded creature that gives milk to its young (6)
- 10 Find out about something (8)
- 14 Wonderful, grand, high level (8)
- 15 Being able to keep something going (14)
- 16 People who care about nature and work to save it (17)

Down ↓

- 2 Give reasons why (5)
- 3 A large sea creature (5)
- 4 For profit, to make money (10)
- 5 Fix deeply inside (5)
- 8 Inside of a country or home (8)
- 9 Put into danger (10)
- 11 Not shared with others (9)
- 12 Disapproval (9)
- 13 A specific kind of something (usually an animal) (7)
- 14 A special kind of job or task often with travelling (7)

Is there anything that culture can't justify?

Japan Resumes Whaling Word List

Word list

argue	give reasons why
commercial	for profit, to make money
confined	limited - kept in a set area
criticism	disapproval - saying what's wrong
culture	the values and beliefs of a society
domestic	inside of a country or home
environmentalists	people who care about nature and work to save it
exclusive	Not shared with others
firestorm	very strong words/feelings against something
flotilla	a small fleet - group of ships
healthy	not sick but well and in good condition
identify	Name also choose
impact	hit (usually strongly)
inhumanity	against the shared values of all people
majestic	Wonderful, beautiful like a king or queen
mammal	a creature group that gives milk to its young
mission	a special kind of job/task often with travelling
penetrate	Go deep inside something
research	study to find new facts about something
species	a specific kind of something (usually an animal)
struggle	a kind of fight, usually hard
subsequent	what comes next - following in time or order
sustainability	being able to keep something going
territorial waters	an area of ocean and sea surrounding a country
threatened	put into danger

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