**Blackfish Documentary Questions**

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Questions to be answered during the film:

1. What was the behavior exhibited by the young whales and their pods during the time of capture from the ocean?
2. Describe the environment that Tilikum lived in during his time at Sealand in British Columbia.
3. What evidence did the Sealand trainers have that Tilikum was being picked on by the other orcas?
4. When the trainer was killed at Sealand, who was blamed?
5. Why was SeaWorld Orlando so interested in buying Tilikum when Sealand closed?
6. What were the SeaWorld trainers told about Tilikum’s past behavior when he arrived?
7. During a typical performance at SeaWorld, what activities do orcas do?
8. The day that Dawn Brancheau died, trainers say that Tilikum was off his game. What behavior did they witness that caused them to be concerned?
9. How exactly did Dawn Brancheau die?
10. After Dawn’s death, what happened to Tilikum?

Questions to reflect on AFTER the film:

1. This documentary is mainly told through the viewpoints of five former SeaWorld trainers. Why did the filmmakers not include testimony from current SeaWorld employees?
2. SeaWorld declined to comment on the documentary. How do you feel about that?
3. SeaWorld is currently appealing a court ruling that makes trainers stay a certain distance away from whales to ensure safety. Do you believe that SeaWorld should be fighting that decision? Why or why not?
4. There is a huge movement by PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) and other organizations to have all the whales in captivity released into the wild. Do you believe that is a viable option? Why or why not?
5. SeaWorld no longer captures orcas from the wild. Instead, they collect semen from males and artificially inseminate females to produce offspring. How do you feel about this practice?
6. SeaWorld trainers would tell people watching orca shows that Tilikum’s dorsal fin was flopped over due to a genetic disorder. Others say that the dorsal fin flop over on animals kept in captivity is due to their proximity to the water’s surface and the exposure to the sun. Which of those two arguments do you believe and why?