

Expository
Text

Protecting the Islands

by Karen Alexander



Mc
Graw
Hill

PAIRED
READ

Penguins Go Global

STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Reread

Skill: Author's Point of View

Vocabulary Strategy

Suffixes

Vocabulary

caretakers, population,
recognize, relatives,
resources, success,
survive, threatened

Content Standards

Science

Life Science

Word count: 825**

Photography Credit: Cover (t) John A. Karachewski, (c) John Klavitter/USFWS/USG

**The total word count is based on words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in captions, labels, diagrams, charts, and sidebars are not included.



Essential Question

How can people help animals survive?

Protecting the Islands

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**PAIRED
READ**

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CHAPTER 1

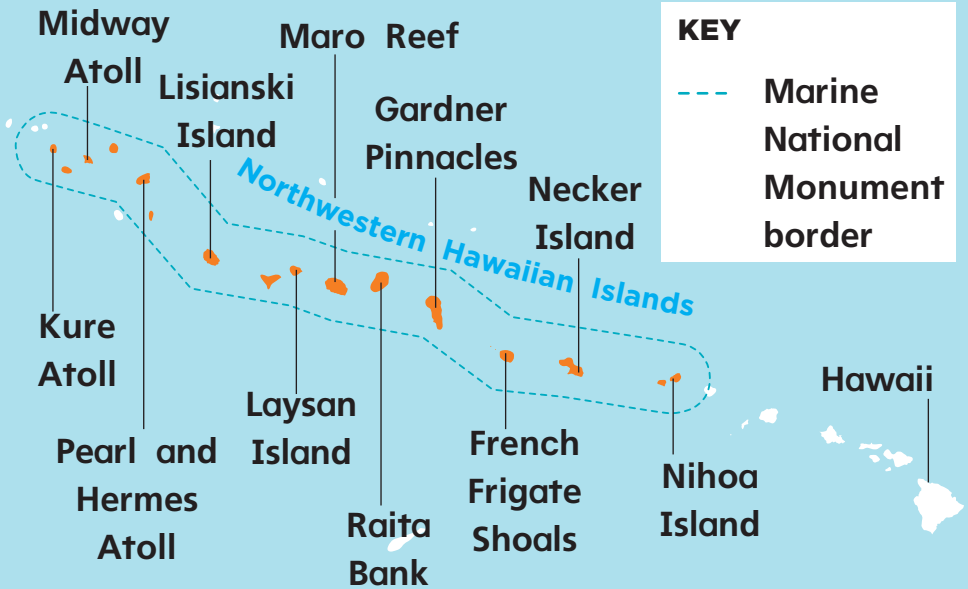
Precious Islands

A reef shark swims slowly through the waters of Maro Reef. Fish chase one another through the coral. Seabirds dive into the water. They are looking for fish to eat. A turtle paddles past. It is eating seaweed.

Squirrelfish swim through the coral.



Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument



The NWHI National Monument is made up of islands and atolls, and the ocean around them.

Maro Reef is part of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI). Thousands of animals live there. Many of them are threatened. Some are even in danger of becoming **extinct**. The islands have been made into a national monument. That means that they are protected. So are all the animals that live there.

The monument is bigger than Missouri and Oklahoma combined. More than 7,000 kinds of animals live there. About a quarter of them are **endemic**. That means that this is the only place in the world they live.

No one lives on the islands.

A Special Place

National monuments recognize that a place is special. Some are buildings. George Washington's home in Virginia is a national monument. Some are natural features. The huge sequoia trees in California are a national monument.

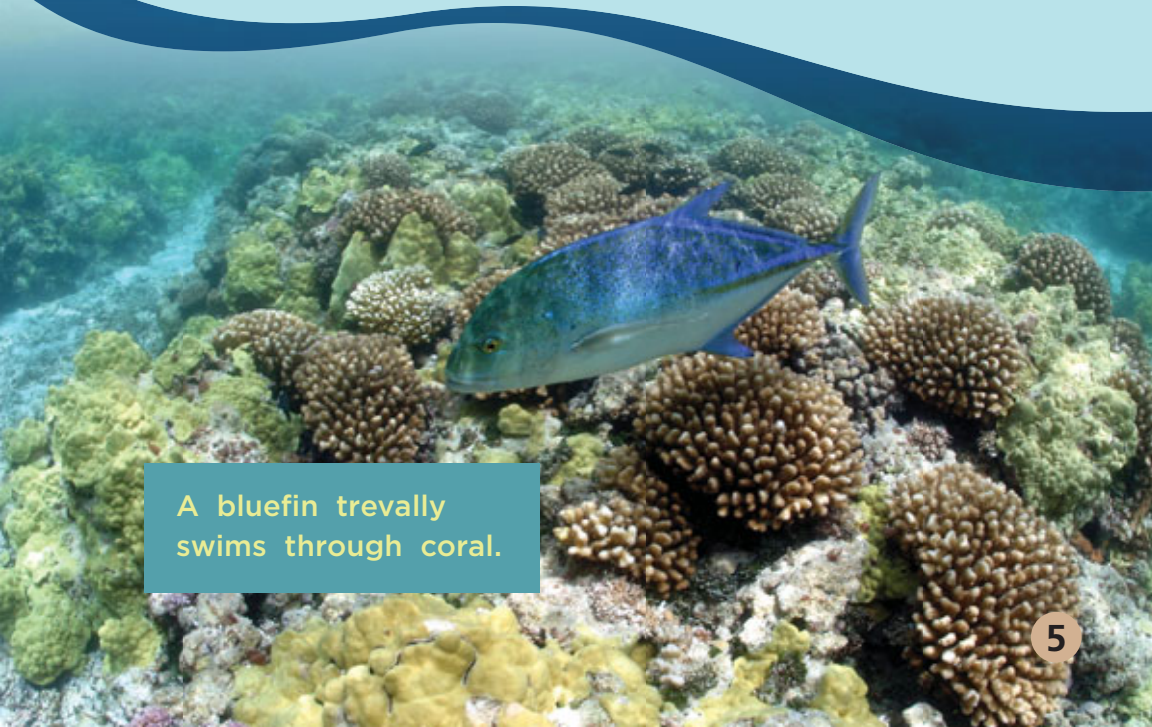
STOP AND CHECK

Why is the NWHI monument important to the animals that live there?

A Coral Wonderland

There are many coral reefs in the NWHI monument. They are full of plants and animals. They are part of the reef **ecosystem**. The monument protects all the plants and animals that live there.

Coral reefs face many threats. Pollution can hurt the coral. The population of many large reef fish is getting smaller.



A bluefin trevally swims through coral.

The coral reefs in the NWHI are carefully protected. No one is allowed to fish on these reefs or take coral. People need special permission to visit the islands and reefs. This keeps the reefs safe.

It is important to protect the whole reef, because all of the animals there depend on one another to survive.

Coral Is Alive!

Coral is made up of millions of tiny animals. These animals take calcium from the water. They turn it into limestone. They make the limestone into a cup shape. Then they live in it. Coral needs air, food, light, and water. It comes in different shapes. Some corals look like the branches of trees. Tiny plants live in the coral. They give the coral its color.



Some animals eat seaweed and other **marine** plants. They act like lawn mowers. They keep the plants from growing too big. Large **predators**, such as sharks, keep the fish population from getting too big.

STOP AND CHECK

Why is it important to protect the coral reef?


The grey reef shark is a predator.

Marine Nursery

Many birds and other animals make their nests on the islands. For some kinds of birds, it is the only place in the world that they nest. The monument protects these nesting places.

Nearly all the Laysan albatrosses in the world nest on the islands. So do black-footed albatrosses. A few short-tailed albatrosses have started to nest on Midway Atoll. They are relatives of black-footed albatrosses.

John Klavitter/USFWS/USGS



albatross with chick

A short-tailed albatross sits with its chicks.



Short-tailed albatrosses are endangered animals. Many of their nesting areas have disappeared. It is exciting that they are nesting on the atoll.

The short-tailed albatross is the biggest seabird on the island. The birds measure about seven feet across with their wings outstretched.

Not Many Survivors

In the early 1900s, birds were killed for their feathers. Many kinds of birds were almost wiped out. About five million short-tailed albatrosses were killed.

Green Turtles

There are only about 750 Hawaiian green turtles left in the world. In the past, turtles were killed for their meat and shells. Today, they face other dangers. People walking on beaches can scare female turtles. That may stop them laying their eggs. Lights can confuse baby turtles. They may not be able to find their way to the ocean.

The monument gives the turtles a safe place to nest. There are no people or lights on the islands.

A green turtle lays its eggs.





Green turtles always return to the same beach to nest.

Hawaiian green turtles come ashore to warm themselves in the sun. No other sea turtle does that. Not all green turtles are green. They are named for the color of their fat. The turtles eat seaweed and other ocean plants. Their beaks have rough edges. They use their beaks to scrape plants off rocks.

STOP AND CHECK

What are two dangers that face Hawaiian green turtles now?

CHAPTER 4

Animals and People

There are about 1,000 Hawaiian monk seals left in the world. Most seals live in very cold waters. Hawaiian monk seals live in warm waters. They eat lobsters, eels, and fish. They can dive to 1,600 feet to find food.



Hawaiian monk seal

Monk seals are not afraid of people. This can be dangerous. Sometimes people hurt them. The seals can catch diseases from people. Today, most monk seals live in the NWHI monument. They can be safe there.

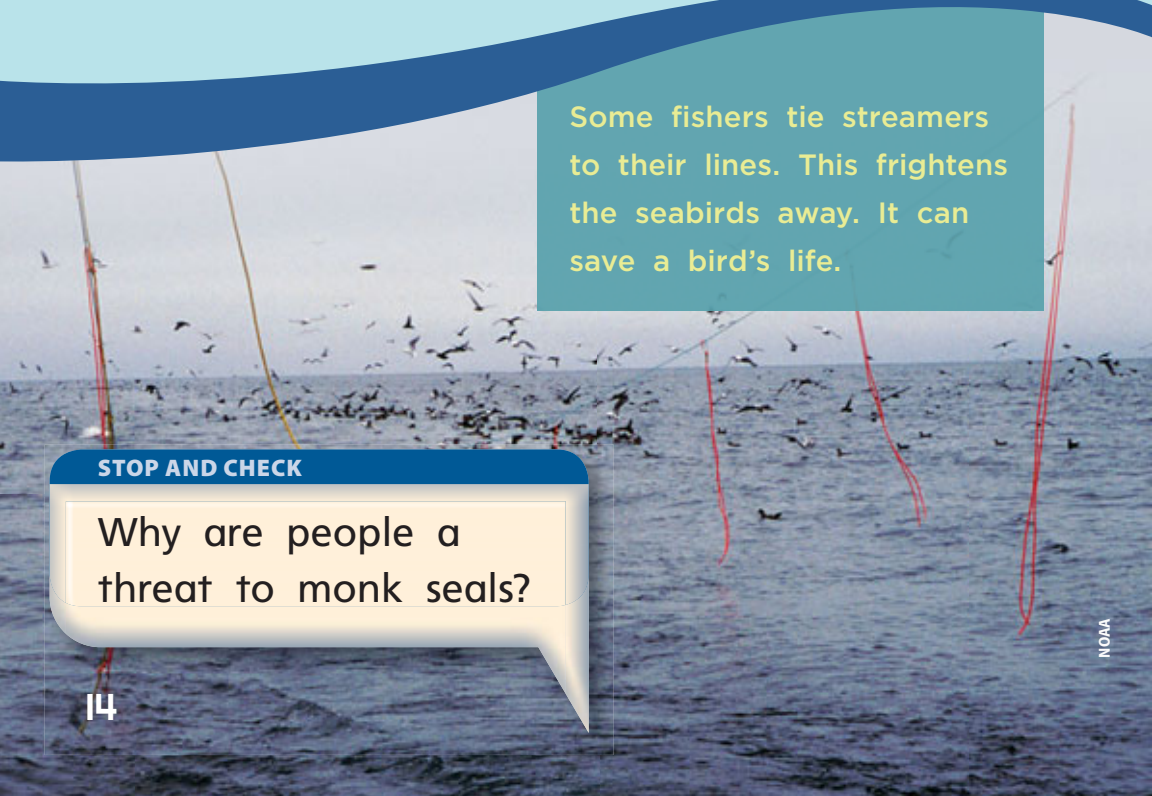
Monk seal pups are born with thick black fur. At about six weeks, they grow gray fur instead.



A Huge Step

All over the world, people try to save threatened animals. They protect beaches and nesting areas. They try to stop waste from going into the ocean. They teach people not to harm animals by thoughtless actions. These people act as caretakers for the world's resources.

By making the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands into a national monument, people have taken a huge step in protecting the animals there.



Some fishers tie streamers to their lines. This frightens the seabirds away. It can save a bird's life.

STOP AND CHECK

Why are people a threat to monk seals?

Respond to Reading

Summarize

Summarize what you have learned about endangered animals. Use the Point of View Chart to help you.

Details
↓
Point of View

Text Evidence

1. How do you know that *Protecting the Islands* is an informational text?

Genre

2. Why do you think the author wrote this book? Point of View
3. What does *thoughtless* (p. 14) mean? Look at the suffix to help you figure out the meaning. Suffixes
4. Write about why seabirds can nest safely on the islands. Write About Reading


Compare Texts

Read what one person is doing to help save a threatened animal.

Penguins Go Global

Dr. Pablo Borboroglu loves penguins. He set up the Global Penguin Society to help save the places where penguins nest.

Many kinds of penguins are threatened. Overfishing means they need to go farther as they look for food. The oceans are getting warmer. This melts the sea ice. Oil spills and waste are polluting the oceans.



Dr. Borboroglu

Some penguins are losing their home. People build on land where the penguins used to nest.

The health of penguins helps us learn about the health of the oceans. Penguins swim long distances. They depend on the resources of the ocean to survive.

Penguins live in many places in the Southern Hemisphere.

A photograph of three penguins swimming in the ocean. One penguin is in the foreground, another is in the middle ground, and a third is in the background. The water is blue and slightly rippled. The background shows a distant shoreline with some buildings and a clear sky.

Perfect Predators

Penguins look clumsy when they walk. But they can run as fast as most people can. They can jump out of the water onto land. Penguins swim very fast. They are good at catching fish and squid.

Dr. Borboroglu is trying to protect penguins from these threats. He also wants to use penguins to show the threats faced by all marine animals.

Tourists like to look at penguins. Tourists also bring in much-needed income. Dr. Borboroglu is having success in teaching people how to benefit from the interest in penguins without harming the birds.



Royalty-Free/CORBIS



Make Connections

In *Penguins Go Global*, what has Dr. Borboroglu done to help save penguins? **Essential Question**

In *Protecting the Islands and Penguins Go Global*, how do people work together to solve problems? **Text to Text**

Glossary

ecosystem (*EE-koh-SIS-tuhm*) animals, plants, and their environment (*page 5*)

endemic (*en-DE-mik*) living only in a particular place (*page 4*)

extinct (*ik-STINKT*) no longer existing (*page 3*)

marine (*muh-REEN*) living in or around the ocean (*page 7*)

predators (*PRE-duh-tuhrz*) animals that catch and eat other animals (*page 7*)

sea ice (*SEE IGHS*) frozen sea water that floats on the ocean (*page 16*)

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Focus on Science

Purpose To find out about a threatened animal.

What to Do

Step 1 Choose a threatened animal that you are interested in.

.....

Step 2 Find out as much as you can about the animal—where it lives, what it eats, the threats to its survival.

.....

Step 3 Make a chart headed "Threats."

.....

Step 4 Write the threats faced by your animal in the chart.

Conclusion What could people do to help your animal?

Thinkmark

The Topic

What are *Protecting the Islands* and *Penguins Go Global* mostly about?

Vocabulary

Find two key words in these texts that relate to the topic.

Author's Purpose

Why do you think the author wrote *Protecting the Islands* and *Penguins Go Global*?

Conclusions

What is the most important thing you learned in *Protecting the Islands*?