



Worksheet 11. Reading: Hoover: A Famous Seal

Read the passage about Hoover, a famous seal. Then answer the questions about Hoover on the next page. The definitions of some words are on the next page.

Hoover: A Famous Seal

One day many years ago, a **couple** in Maine, a northeastern state on the U.S. east coast, found a small baby **seal**. They decided to **take care** of him.



They brought him home, put him in a bathtub, and fed him small fish. He ate many fish. He ate the fish quickly, and he ate like a vacuum cleaner -- that is why his name is Hoover, like the **original** vacuum cleaner.

When Hoover was four months old, he became too big for the bath tub, so his **owners** put him in a big **pond** behind their house. Here, Hoover began to talk. But, after a while his owners **could not afford** to keep him **any longer** because he was eating so many fish! They gave him to the Boston **Aquarium**.

Hoover spent the rest of his **lifetime** in the Boston Aquarium. He attracted many visitors because he talked, and he also was very friendly. Some of his phrases were "Hello there," "How are you?" "Get out of here," and "Get down." After he said these things, he laughed. His audience laughed, too, and **clapped** for him.

At the aquarium, scientists studied Hoover because he was a very unusual seal. The scientists wanted to know why Hoover talked. And why the other seals didn't talk.

Hoover was the subject of several magazine articles and television shows. He became famous and made many friends. He was the father of several baby seals. Some of his **descendants** are still living in the Boston Aquarium.

**Worksheet 11, page 2****Definitions:**

<i>couple</i>	- two people
<i>any longer</i>	- something that was true in the past, but is not true now
<i>aquarium</i>	- a large building where people go to look at many kinds of fish
<i>clap</i>	- to hit your hands together several times. It shows appreciation of a performance.
<i>could not afford</i>	- did not have enough money to pay for
<i>descendants</i>	- your children, grandchildren, etc.; the opposite of ancestors.
<i>lifetime</i>	- the time of your whole life
<i>original</i>	- the first of a kind
<i>owner</i>	- a person who owns, or has, something
<i>pond</i>	- a very small, shallow lake
<i>seal</i>	- a kind of animal that lives in the ocean
<i>take care of</i>	- to give attention to and be careful with

Now complete the sentences based on the story about Hoover. Cross out the incorrect word or phrase in the parentheses.

1. Hoover was a (fish / seal).
2. The people in Maine (took care of / didn't take care of) Hoover.
3. Hoover began to talk while he was living in the (pond / ocean).
4. The people gave Hoover to the aquarium because it was too (expensive / long) to keep him.
5. The visitors always (talked / clapped) their hands for Hoover.
6. Scientists studied Hoover because he was (different / usual).
7. Hoover (always was / became) famous.
8. Hoover has several (ancestors / descendants) in the Boston Aquarium.