

Combining a #1 Blockbuster Movie, an Award Winning Documentary, and Interactive Study Guide for a truly *Unique Interactive Learning Opportunity* for Middle and High School Students

HISTORY:

Keiko swam straight into the hearts of millions of children and adults around the world upon the debut of the film *Free Willy* in July 1993. So it was quite a jolt when his fans discovered that, unlike his fictional counterpart, Keiko was not free. Torn from his family at the tender age of two, Keiko spent 14 years in captivity as a performing tourist attraction before Hollywood discovered him for the title role. Everyone hoped that Keiko would find his family and live happily ever after. His millions of new fans around the globe, most of them children, launched a crusade to save him.

KEIKO IN THE SCHOOLS:

"Be prepared for a documentary that will impact every student. I was personally surprised by the strong reaction when I showed this movie to my students. I was impressed by how deeply students connected with Keiko and his journey, transforming their perceptions of orca intelligence, orca culture, and the differences between orcas living in captivity and living in the wild. I encourage you to use this movie to engage and empower your classes to think about how this knowledge can be used to make a difference in their own lives and their families', or their school's/community's, for orcas in captivity or the myriad of environmental changes that we face in our communities today. We are not just educating people for knowledge; we are forging the next generation of citizens of our ever-changing planet."

- Sincerely, Jason Hieggelke, Middle-School Teacher



THE STUDY GUIDE:

Our Study Guide was developed to assist middle and high school teachers screening *Keiko The Untold Story* in their classrooms. Through this unique way of combining experiential learning with two movies and a corresponding study curriculum, students learn through the numerous topics, questions and activities provided to heighten learning and understanding of orcas, their culture and social structure, and the impact of captivity.

The Study Guide material is organized into three sections:

- Before the Movie Activities
- Viewing Activities
- After the Movie Activities

In each section there are various approaches to engage with, explore, and enhance your group's experiences with the movie and enhance your group's experiences with the movie *Keiko The Untold Story of the Star of Free Willy*. It can be modified to meet the needs of your community or classroom, according to the license agreement signed with the distributor.

Included in the Study Guide Packet:

- 1 Teacher's Study Guide
- 1 Experts Poster
- 1 Keiko The Untold Story DVD
- 1 Keiko The Untold Story Movie Soundtrack CD
- 1 Official Movie Poster

DOCUMENTARY BACKGROUND:

Keiko was an unlikely candidate for a successful release back into the wild because of his many years in captivity, his capture at a very young age, and his state of ill-health. Misconceptions about what happened with Keiko during his return to his natural habitat are all too often taken as truth by the general public and cloud the facts of how he actually did during this unprecedented effort to release a captive orca back to its natural habitat. This film brings you first-hand accounts of those directly in charge of Keiko's care with the actual footage of how Keiko, the most unlikely candidate for such a project:

- Thrived in his post-captivity period for more than five years
- Mixed it up with wild orcas and manifested physical signs of attempts to mate
- Left his trainers, followed a wild pod, and traveled on his own from Iceland to Norway, having fed himself for over six weeks and arriving as a fat, well-fed whale
- Gained over 3,000lbs. during his rehabilitation
- Finally became the second longest-lived male captive orca in history at the time of his death, and the only captive orca to be returned to his natural habitat with the successful use of a sea pen.
- The film also provides insight into the unique culture of orcas, and what the impact of being taken from his pod had on Keiko's survival instincts.

*The movie Free Willy is not included in the package, but is recommended to be watched first as part of the overall experience. It can be rented from most libraries. Go to http://www.keikotheuntoldstory.com for more details and to order.

