

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# COME TO A CONCLUSION

An *inference* is a conclusion that isn't written in a text but one that you can reach based on evidence and reasoning. After reading "What's Killing Killer Whales?" (p. 20), answer the questions below. They ask you to identify and make inferences using details in the article.

**1.** Which of the following is an inference you could make based on what you read in the article?

- (A) PCB pollution affects only marine mammals.
- (B) As PCB levels in the environment decrease, killer whale reproduction rates will increase.
- (C) Populations of all killer whales are decreasing because of PCB pollution.
- (D) The effect of PCBs on killer whale populations has decreased since the chemicals were banned.

**2.** What can you infer about how the PCB levels of an anchovy would compare with those of a killer whale?

Use details from the article and its diagram to make your conclusion.

**4.** The dangers of PCBs were not always known.

What is one detail from the article that can help you make that inference?

**5.** Blue whales, which eat mainly krill, can reach roughly three times the length of a killer whale. Based on the information in the article, what can you infer about how PCBs might affect blue whales?

**3.** What can you infer about the relationship between PCB levels and the size of killer whale populations?

- (A) The level of PCBs in whales does not affect the size of the population.
- (B) If PCB levels in whales increase, the population size will increase.
- (C) If PCB levels in whales increase, the population size will decrease.
- (D) As the size of a whale population increases, the levels of PCBs in individuals increases.