

Grade 7 Vocabulary

Use of Vocabulary Words in Context

Week 21

Directions: Read the passage below to better understand the vocabulary words.

Problems with Poachers

Vocabulary Words

coastal
nexus
destination
excursions
allies
ramshackle
sniper
bulwark
thwart
raid
foil
migratory
tactics
punitive
violation

Hint: When learning new terms, look for context clues to help determine the meaning. If the sentence you find the word in is not helpful, keep reading to see if it can be understood.

There is a small town in the **coastal** region of Oregon that once had an issue with poachers. This was a common **destination** for professional fisherman and those who took weekend **excursions** to see the coast and spend time fishing the beautiful area. **Allies** for the ecosystem and native fish and animals were well known in the small town. Still, one group of poachers felt they could skirt the law and poach the local fish, many of which were illegal to hunt because they were endangered. Each year, the **migratory** patterns and numbers of creatures were tracked.

The poaching ring had people around the world, but the **nexus** was in that small town. The members lived unassuming lives, but in the dark of night they trapped fish to be sold as exotic pets. Anyone who did this was considered a **violation** of local laws and ordinances against such things. This could lead to **punitive** fines and sentences. Unfortunately for the poachers, law enforcement was onto their little plan. Their **tactics** had come to light when a local had spotted a trap while he was out fishing.

At first, the traps were simply removed, hoping this would be enough to **foil** the plan and stop the activities, but it was not enough. So, a **raid** was planned. The plan was to form a **bulwark** of officers around the rundown **ramshackle** building where the fish were being illegally held in large tanks. A **sniper** would be positioned across the road in case extra firepower was needed. This was an attempt not only to **thwart** their plans, but to return the fish to their natural habitat.