

Washoe

“Monkey see, monkey do.” This old saying has a lot of truth in it. Monkeys are great imitators. They copy many things people do.

Scientists knew this about monkeys. They wanted to teach monkeys to talk. But monkeys do not have the same vocal cords as people. They are not able to actually “talk.” But scientists thought that monkeys could learn American Sign Language. ASL, or American Sign Language, is a way deaf people in America communicate. Because hands and fingers are used in ASL, scientists knew that a monkey could copy it.

Washoe, a newborn chimpanzee, was picked for the experiment. Washoe lived in a laboratory with her trainers. Everyone who came into the laboratory had to use ASL. Soon Washoe could copy the hand movements her trainers used.

When Washoe learned the sign for “open,” she used it often. “Open food” meant she wanted something from the refrigerator. “Open key” meant Washoe

wanted to get through a locked door. The trainers laughed when Washoe signed “open faucet” so she could get a drink of water.

By the time Washoe was five, she could use over 80 ASL signs. She surprised her trainers one day with a sentence, “Listen, dog.” Indeed, there was a dog barking outside, although Washoe couldn’t see it.

Washoe learned many more signs and added them to her vocabulary. She became the first nonhuman animal to learn human language. Washoe even taught her adopted “children,” Moja, Tatu, Dar, and Loulis how to sign. Now all the chimps communicate with each other and with humans.

The chimps live happily together at a university in Washington. Scientists and students can study the chimps. This work has taught scientists how to help some nontalking human children learn to communicate. Scientists agree that it is exciting to communicate with animals.

Main Idea

1. Animals and people can
 - a. communicate with each other.
 - b. dance with each other.
 - c. eat the same food.

Significant Details

2. ASL uses
 - a. vocal cords.
 - b. hands and feet.
 - c. hands and fingers.
3. Washoe is a
 - a. chimpanzee.
 - b. gorilla.
 - c. tiger.

4. Washoe can
 - a. talk.
 - b. read a book.
 - c. use sign language.

Context Clues

5. Monkeys *imitate* what people do.
 - a. copy
 - b. make fun of
 - c. communicate
6. Washoe learned to *communicate* with others.
 - a. imitate people
 - b. play with others
 - c. tell your thoughts to others

Jacques Cousteau

Most people know about the Baseball Hall of Fame. There is also a Cowboy Hall of Fame. Another important hall is the Hall of Fame for Environmentalists. The people in it have done many things to help protect and preserve our planet. One of the first people to be in this hall of fame was a Frenchman. He was Jacques Yves Cousteau, a famous explorer. Cousteau explored the world underwater. He loved the beautiful plant and animal life deep in the sea. He began to take pictures underwater. For the first time, people began to see what wonderful things live and grow in that part of our planet.

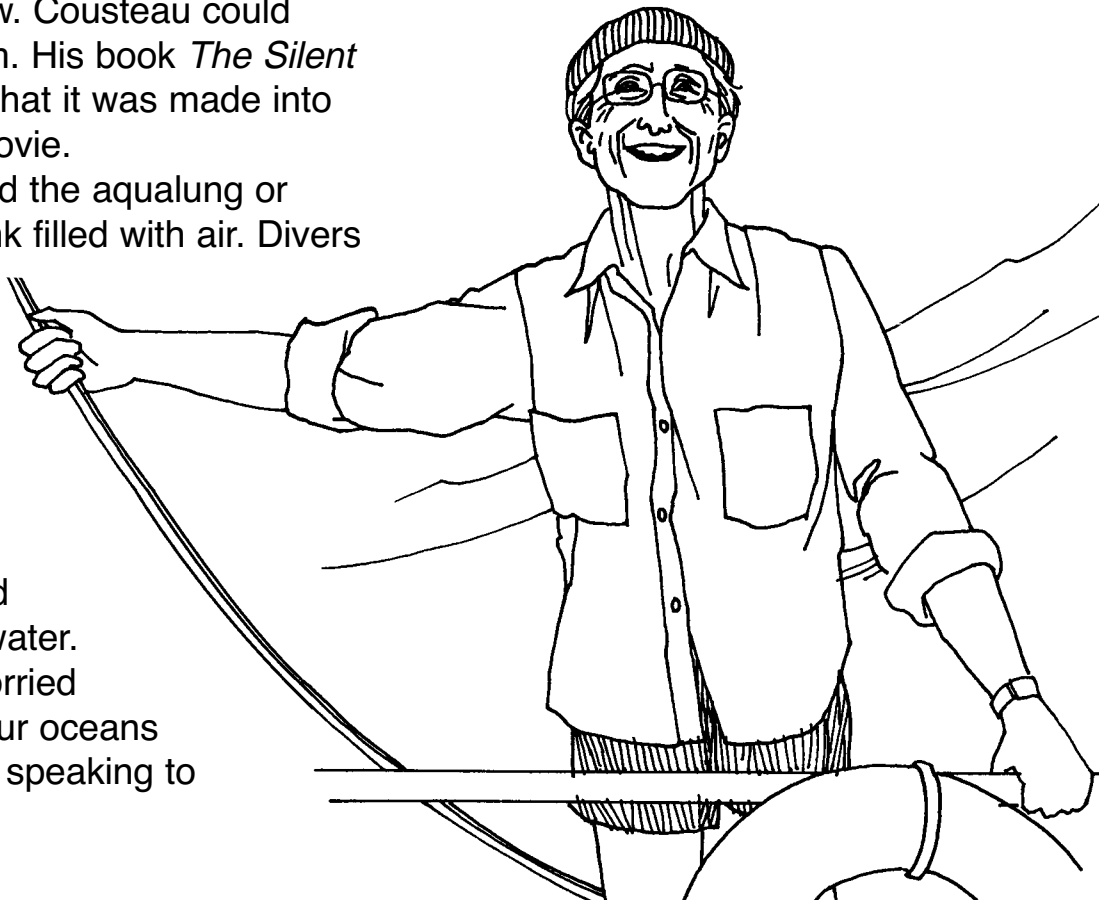
Cousteau explored almost every possible thing underwater. He found sea creatures, strange plants, and buried treasure. Soon the things Cousteau saw were being shown to everyone once a week on his TV show. Cousteau could write as well as swim. His book *The Silent World* was so good that it was made into an award-winning movie.

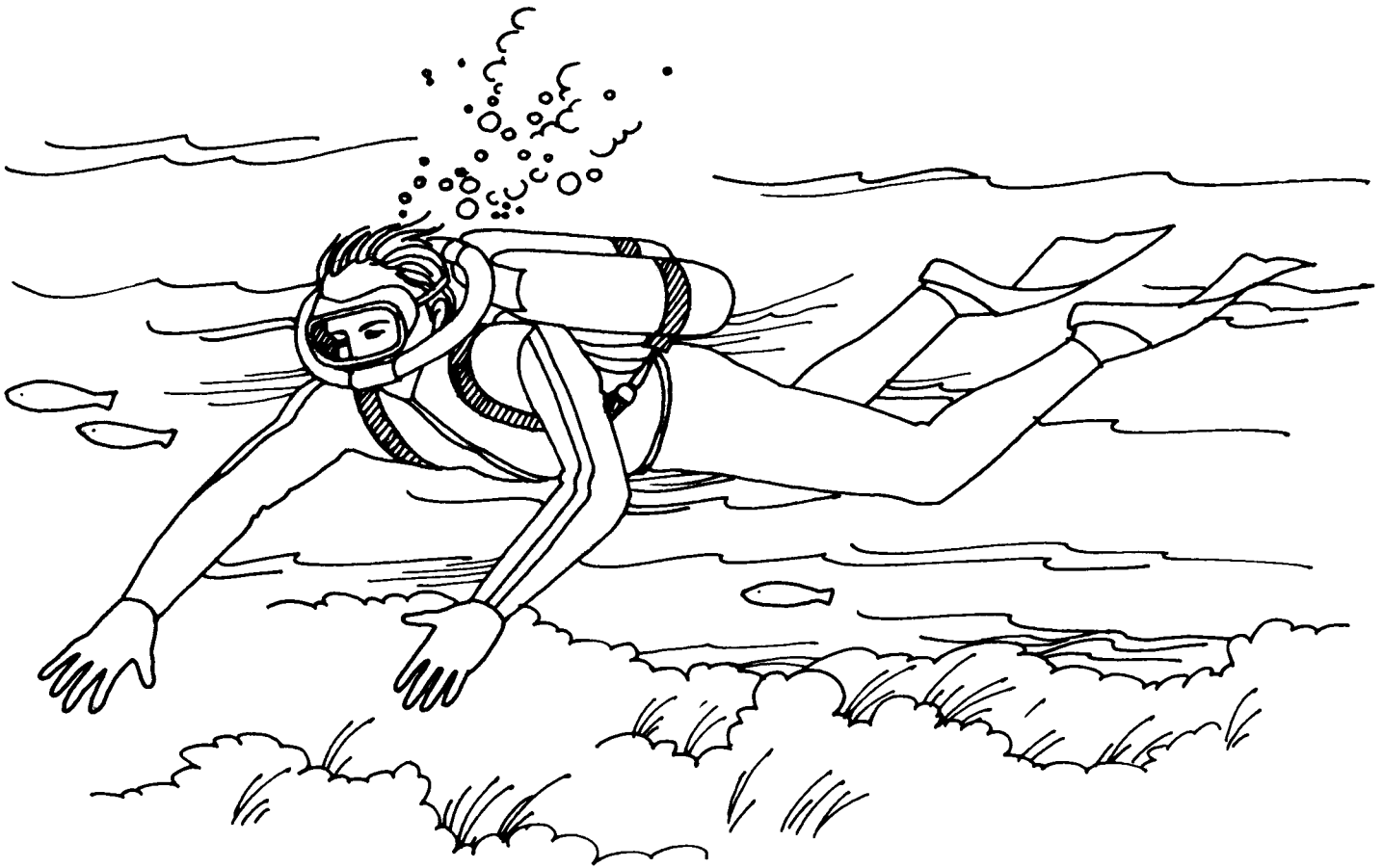
Cousteau invented the aqualung or S.C.U.B.A. It is a tank filled with air. Divers carry it on their backs when they go underwater. They can stay underwater for a long time. He invented many other tools and ideas for use underwater.

Cousteau was worried about the future of our oceans and seas. He began speaking to

people about how to save our seas. He told them not to dump garbage in the sea. He told factories not to put their wastes into the oceans. And he told other divers to be careful of the underwater plants and animals when they are diving.

Jacques Cousteau was voted the “most-loved” man in France. People still felt that way when he died in 1997 at the age of 87. Cousteau’s work still goes on. Other environmentalists want to save the seas and oceans, too. The Jacques Cousteau Foundation was started. All the workers in the Foundation try to follow Cousteau’s footsteps. They work hard to save underwater life. Because of Cousteau and his workers, the colorful undersea world should be around for many generations to come.





Main Idea

1. Cousteau is (*circle all that apply*)
 - a. a writer.
 - b. a cowboy.
 - c. an underwater explorer.
 - d. a young man.
 - e. a South American.
 - f. a photographer.

Significant Details

2. Underwater, Cousteau has found
 - a. baseballs.
 - b. maps.
 - c. buried treasure.

Context Clues

3. When a man is *famous*, he is
 - a. old.
 - b. well-known.
 - c. French.

4. *Exploring* is the same as
 - a. giving parties.
 - b. inventing tools.
 - c. looking for things.
5. *Silent* means _____.

Drawing Conclusions

6. Cousteau was probably most proud of
 - a. his underwater pictures.
 - b. his life in France.
 - c. his work saving life under the sea.

Spies in the Skies

Did you know that both the North and South used spies in the skies during the Civil War? No, they didn't have satellites orbiting Earth or even spy planes. In fact, the Wright brothers didn't fly their first airplane until nearly 40 years after the Civil War ended. So how could they have aerial surveillance without airplanes?

President Abraham Lincoln named Thaddeus Lowe as Chief Aeronaut of the Army of the Potomac in 1861. Lowe recruited other aeronauts, people who flew hot air balloons, to spy on Confederate troops. He and his airship crew made over 3,000 flights into Confederate territory.

From the air, an observer could get a much fuller picture of the scene below, including numbers and placement of troops. According to his memoirs, Lowe's observations from a hydrogen balloon at the Battle of Fair Oaks in May, 1862 provided vital information which narrowly averted a Union defeat.

Hot air balloons were expensive to make, and the Confederacy was always short of money and supplies. They had plenty of cotton, but cotton was not a good material for hot air balloons. The cost of silk, the best material for balloons, was too expensive. The Confederates overcame this problem by sewing together pieces of silk from dresses donated by Southern women to make a balloon.

Despite the advantages of air surveillance, many generals were not convinced of its value. Because the Air Corps was expensive to maintain, it was discontinued in 1863, two years before the war finally ended.

1. What does aerial mean? _____
2. What does surveillance mean? _____
3. What is an aeronaut? _____
4. The author's purpose was to
 - ___ entertain.
 - ___ inform.
 - ___ persuade.

Write F for fact or O for Opinion.

5. ___ Aeronauts were people who flew hot air balloons.
6. ___ Aeronauts were very brave.
7. ___ Silk is more expensive than cotton.
8. ___ Having an air corps was worth the expense.

