

## 2 The animal kingdom is getting smaller and smaller



Source: Adobe Stock/Robert Kneschke

### 2 a Warm-up: show what you know

**Speaking** Get into pairs and try to name and classify the animals you see in the pictures above.

### 2 b It's a wonderful world, right?

**Listening** Go to the BBC's YouTube channel and watch the video [“We need IMMEDIATE action to stop extinction crisis, David Attenborough – BBC”](#) twice.

While watching and listening, answer the questions (1–8) using a maximum of four words. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

#### Species extinction and human behaviour

0	How many animal and plant species are threatened?	1 million
1	What are humanities actions compared to?	
2	What does our destruction of wildlife habitats cause?	
3	Which human activity destroys the natural balance in the oceans?	
4	Apart from population growth which (lifestyle) factor is much more damaging?	
5	Where is our destructive footprint transferred to when we buy goods?	
6	How much area that isn't covered by ice is used for food production?	
7	Apart from a more conscious consumption, what should be reduced?	
8	In which area should we invest more to ensure a better future for everyone?	



Test format  
Note form

### 2 c Nearly identical

**Vocabulary** Match the words that have the same or a similar meaning.

1	remarkable	a	to be threatened with
2	to influence / to affect	b	extraordinary
3	to be faced with sth	c	to rely on sth
4	to safeguard	d	to impact
5	to carry on	e	to protect
6	to depend on sth	f	vital
7	critical	g	to continue

## Snap Shot ✨ [O]

2 d

### Matching collocations

#### Vocabulary

Complete the collocations from the video in 2 b with words from the box. There are two extra options that you should not use.

biological • critical • cut out • driving • emerging • face •  
immediate • industrialised • organic • threaten • track • untouched

1. species \_\_\_\_\_ extinction
2. \_\_\_\_\_ action needs to be taken
3. to lose \_\_\_\_\_ parts of our ecosystem
4. results in \_\_\_\_\_ diseases
5. factors that are \_\_\_\_\_ this crisis
6. pollution in \_\_\_\_\_ countries
7. \_\_\_\_\_ wilderness
8. to be on \_\_\_\_\_ for a much hotter planet
9. to \_\_\_\_\_ meat from our diets
10. to buy \_\_\_\_\_ fruit and vegetables without any chemicals like herbicides and pesticides

2 e

### Making a change

#### Speaking

Get into pairs and discuss the most effective ways to protect species. Agree on three and give reasons for your choices. Use the collocations in the VocabBooster below.

#### VocabBooster

- » to fight to preserve natural habitats
- » to conduct research projects
- » to collaborate with organisations and NGOs
- » to volunteer
- » to educate people
- » to monitor human activity closely
- » to introduce and enforce stricter laws
- » to raise awareness (on social media)
- » to donate money to organisations
- » to modify your lifestyle

2 f

### Why conservation matters

#### Reading

Read the text about how zoos help protect wildlife and ecosystems. First, decide whether the statements (1–8) are true (T) or false (F) and put a cross (x) in the correct box. Then identify the sentence in the text which supports your decision. Write the first four words of this sentence in the space provided. There may be more than one correct answer; write down only one. The first one (0) has been done for you.

AE

### How zoos help protect wildlife and ecosystems

5

poaching:  
das Wildern

With human populations increasing tremendously, the need for natural resources has also increased, leading to many species being at risk, endangered, or extinct. While this can be a result of direct action – like exploitation, poaching, and wildlife trade, indirect causes such as climate change, deforestation and urbanization create massive impacts that disrupt ecosystems.

Wildlife conservation refers to the deliberate efforts aimed at protecting and revitalizing at-risk animals and plant species, as well as their habitats. At zoos around the world, conservation is a commitment that drives daily operations. “There are many species around the world that only exist today because they were saved by zoos,” says Dani Hogan, Director of Mission Integration at Philadelphia Zoo.

20 “Thousands of people have dedicated their lives  
to saving wildlife, and we all work together to  
make that happen. The result is a healthier  
planet that has more biodiversity, more habi-  
tats, and more beauty for all of us to enjoy. As a  
zoo, it is our responsibility to bring this critical  
25 work to life for our guests.”

Biodiversity is the cornerstone of a healthy  
ecosystem. Each species, no matter how small,  
plays a crucial role in maintaining the balance  
of nature. Losing a species can have far-  
30 reaching effects on the environment, impacting  
everything from pollination and soil fertility  
to air quality and abundance of harmful pests.  
Humans are not immune to these effects: think  
how the loss of honeybees alone would greatly  
35 impact lives. Without the power of their wide-  
spread pollination, many common fruits and  
vegetables would cease to exist, while other  
products would become astronomically expen-  
sive.

pest: an insect  
that is harmful

to bolster: to  
support



40 Humans have an obligation to protect the  
planet’s biodiversity as we continue utilizing  
and benefiting directly from its resources. Zoos,  
as institutions dedicated to wildlife conserva-  
tion and education, must raise awareness and  
45 inspire action to create a better world for all its  
inhabitants. Remember – while no one person  
themselves can achieve a more sustainable  
world, individual actions can inspire many to  
do the same.

50 “The mission of any zoo is so much more than

simply being a place for people to see animals,”  
says Dani Hogan. “At Philadelphia Zoo, you can  
visit animals that no longer live in the wild and  
learn about them directly from the staff who  
care for them every day. Every visit contributes  
55 to our conservation programs. So, a visit to the  
zoo is a way for you and your family to have an  
amazing day while also doing something good  
for wildlife.” Through interactive exhibits,  
passionate staff ready to chat, and additional  
60 in-school educational programs, visitors and  
students gain insight about the importance of  
species conservation through making connec-  
tions with their favorite animals.

Zoos around the world actively participate in  
65 breeding programs for endangered species.  
By carefully managing genetic diversity and  
breeding pairs, the aim is to bolster popula-  
tions of threatened animals in human care and  
share new information that can aid researchers  
70 that work with wild populations. Collaborating

with scientists, conservationists  
and veterinary professionals, zoos  
are often at the forefront of global,  
groundbreaking research to better  
75 understand species and develop  
strategies for their preservation  
and care. As America’s first zoo,  
Philadelphia Zoo has many times  
published leading research and  
80 methodologies that not only have  
increased the quality of care for  
animals in human care but have  
also provided additional insight  
to protecting animals in the wild. 85  
This research served as inspira-  
tion for the organization ‘Save  
The Golden Lion Tamarin’ when

they were investigating ways to connect criti-  
cal breeding habitats that were fragmented due  
90 to oil and gas pipelines in Brazil. The tamarins  
can now safely travel from one forest segment  
to another, increasing the genetic variability of  
this endangered species.


Zoos bring the significance of wildlife conser-  
95 vation into their communities. They engage  
visitors of all ages and backgrounds by provid-  
ing unique experiences and sparking our sense  
of wonder about the natural world.

# Snap Shot

	Statements
0	Species are threatened due to human population growth.
1	Species are only endangered and threatened with extinction by direct human actions.
2	Conservation is mostly only done by dedicated individuals working alone.
3	Several species would be extinct, if it weren't for zoos.
4	Species loss also has an effect on food prices.
5	The zoo's employees offer visitors specialised information about the animals in their care.
6	Zoos randomly pair their animals to breed more animals to increase their numbers.
7	Research done in and with zoos helps better protect animals in their natural habitats.
8	Zoos are only interesting for children.

Write your answers here:

	T	F	First four words
0	x		With human populations increasing
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

 **Test format**  
True / false with justification

**2 g**

**Follow-up**

## Bringing it home – zoos and wildlife parks in Austria

Research conservation efforts undertaken by zoos, animal sanctuaries and wildlife parks in Austria. While researching, also keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities and internships. Report your findings in class.



Source: Adobe Stock/Alberto Agnoletto

**2 h**

**Language in use**

## The pygmy hippo social media star

Read the text about Moo Deng, the pygmy hippo. Some words are missing. Choose the correct word (A–P) for each gap (1–13). There are two extra words that you should not use. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

### Moo Deng, the pygmy hippo star bringing conservation into the spotlight

On July 10, 2024, an adorable pygmy hippopotamus named Moo Deng was born at the Khao Kheow Open Zoo in Si Racha, Chonburi, Thailand. It didn't take long for this young hippo to (0) \_\_\_ the hearts of millions. Videos of Moo Deng quickly spread across social media, (1) \_\_\_ her into an internet sensation.

Social media experts say videos featuring animals like Moo Deng offer viewers a “social cleanse.” In a time when algorithms often promote content filled with (2) \_\_\_ news, these

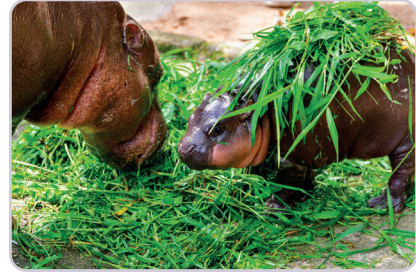


## Snap Shot ✨ [O]

charming animal videos provide a welcome, uplifting break.

The sudden popularity of Moo Deng has helped bring much-needed attention to the disappearance of pygmy hippos and what can be (3) \_\_\_ to protect them. Native to the forests of West Africa, pygmy hippos are primarily found in Liberia, with smaller populations in Sierra Leone, Guinea, and the Ivory Coast. Shy by nature, these hippos prefer hiding in swamps and dense vegetation and are more likely to flee from threats (4) \_\_\_ confront them.

Despite their unique characteristics, pygmy hippos face (5) \_\_\_ challenges. They are officially listed as endangered, with only around 2,500 remaining in the wild. Habitat loss due to human activities is one of the biggest threats to their (6) \_\_\_. One (7) \_\_\_ lining in conserving pygmy hippos is that they breed well in captivity. This success has provided valuable research opportunities and contributed to the species' long-term survival. Moo Deng's birth has given the zoo an (8) \_\_\_ boost in visitors' numbers.



Source: Adobe Stock/1 Viewfinder

However, Moo Deng's popularity is not without its criticisms. Some conservationists worry that her attention might cause unintended harm, particularly through increased human interaction at the zoo. In the wild, hippos are not known for being social with humans, and too much exposure can lead to (9) \_\_\_ and health issues.

The newfound fame of Moo Deng presents a unique opportunity. By adding educational content to their social media posts, they can help (10) \_\_\_ awareness about the challenges pygmy hippos face and what can be done to protect them. This can inspire viewers to care about more than just the cute videos – they may feel motivated to (11) \_\_\_ environmental initiatives that protect these endangered animals.



Social media has a powerful influence over our habits and actions, which can be harnessed for positive change. Moo Deng's story illustrates how viral content can go beyond entertainment and become a tool for (12) \_\_\_ awareness and prompting meaningful conversations. In the end, Moo Deng's rise to fame may protect her species in the (13) \_\_\_ run.

Source: happyconews.com/the-pygmy-hippo-star-bringing-conservation-into-the-spotlight/ (Jamie D'Souza)

- |   |         |   |           |   |            |
|---|---------|---|-----------|---|------------|
| A | capture | G | silver    | L | survival   |
| B | done    | H | spreading | M | than       |
| C | long    | I | stress    | N | then       |
| D | raise   | J | stressful | O | turning    |
| E | made    | K | support   | P | unexpected |
| F | serious |   |           |   |            |

Test format  
Banked gap-fill

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A													

2 i

Speaking

### The most dangerous animal in the world

You and your partner have to prepare a presentation on the role zoos play in species conservation. To prepare for it you have done some research on the topic and stumbled across the following quotation.

## Snap Shot ✨ [O]

Just beyond the ticket booth Father had painted on a wall in bright red letters the question: DO YOU KNOW WHICH IS THE MOST DANGEROUS ANIMAL IN THE ZOO? An arrow pointed to a small curtain. There were so many eager, curious hands that pulled at the curtain that we had to replace it regularly. Behind it was a mirror. – *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

Test format  
Individual long  
turn

Give a four-minute talk on the importance of zoos in which you:

- » comment on the quote,
- » explain how human activities impact species,
- » describe your experiences with zoos.

2j








Speaking

### How many can you name?

Get together in pairs. Describe the infographic below and try to name as many endangered species as you know.

### More than 46,300 species are threatened with extinction

That is still 28% of all assessed species.

amphibians 41% 	mammals 26% 	birds 12% 	sharks & rays 37% 
reef corals 44% 	selected crustaceans 28% 	reptiles 21% 	


Source: [www.iucnredlist.org/en](http://www.iucnredlist.org/en)

Source: Adobe Stock/artbalitskiy

2k

Listening

### The role that bees play

Go to YouTube and look for the video  [“What If Bees Went EXTINCT? | BBC Earth Explore”](#). You are going to listen to a recording about the role that bees play. Give yourself 45 seconds to study the task below. Then listen to the video twice. While listening, match the beginnings of the sentences (1–9) with the sentence endings (A–L). There are two sentence endings that you should not use. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

#### What if bees were extinct?

0	We probably wouldn't survive ...
1	Bees pollinate ...
2	Most plants are pollinated by ...
3	Without bees, supermarkets wouldn't be able to offer ...
4	Currently bees are dying ...
5	In the last 70 years, farmland has replaced ...
6	In the last few decades, there has been an extinction of a ...
7	Due to global warming, there has been a ...
8	In Southwest China, there are no longer any ...
9	In Southwest China, orchards have to be pollinated by ...



**Test format**  
**Multiple matching**

- A | at a slow but steady pace
- B | at an alarming rate
- C | over 70% of all crops that feed humanity
- D | 50% drop of pollination levels
- E | about 50% of all fruits and vegetables
- ~~F~~ | without bees
- G | honeybees
- H | about 97% of flower-rich grassland
- I | farmers with paint brushes
- J | number of bumblebees
- K | 50% increase in pollination levels
- L | wild bees



Source: Adobe Stock/artbalitskiy

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
F									

## 21

### Reading

#### Hedgehogs – spiky on the outside but soft on the inside

Read the text about hedgehogs. Complete the sentences (1–8) using a maximum of four words. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

BE

#### How gardens can help hedgehogs survive

Hedgehog numbers are declining in the UK, and the species is now vulnerable to extinction, mainly due to the loss of its natural habitat. The creatures are very vulnerable to road traffic, getting caught in netting or badger attacks. Pesticides and herbicides in our gardens and on farmland, which are deadly to hedgehogs, have had a big impact on hedgehog populations, too.



It's thought that there are around one million hedgehogs in England, Wales and Scotland, compared to 30 million in the 1950s. Conservationists looked at the data of 3,012 hedgehog occurrences and sightings, collected by volunteers across 32 boroughs in Greater London. From this, the team were able to come up with a predictive map of suitable habitats across the capital. The most suitable habitats to help urban hedgehogs were found to be in London's suburbs – the residential areas surrounding city centres – where there are more gardens,

parks and allotments, with less busy roads and fewer people around. More central areas in London, that are built up and have a higher population of people, are far less likely to have hedgehogs living there. The study also suggests that wild spaces that had been lost and replaced with pavements and roads greatly lowered their chances of survival.

Other factors such as the presence of badgers (which are known predators and competitors in rural areas) also resulted in a smaller number of hedgehogs in Greater London. But there is lots that you can do to help these prickly creatures, who like to hibernate between November and March. Hedgehogs eat slugs, snails, caterpillars, earthworms and beetles, but they also enjoy cat food, cat biscuits and hedgehog biscuits, just make sure that any food you leave out is not fish-based.

to hibernate: to pass the winter in a state like deep sleep

Source: Adobe Stock/Mickis Fotowelt

## Snap Shot ✨ [O]

50 Even more important than food is making sure that hedgehogs have water to drink. You can leave water out for them in a clean bowl and take care it does not freeze over when the temperature drops. But remember: never leave out milk for hedgehogs to drink – it can make them

55 very ill. Creating more wildlife-friendly spaces in your gardens, like wood piles and bramble patches is also a good idea. Hedgehogs need places to hibernate, so if you can put out a hedgehog box or leave piles of undisturbed vegetation, such as fallen leaves, hedgehogs may use these as nesting sites.

60 Setting up a hedgehog highway, by making a small gap under fences, will also help hedgehogs to find food and shelter in your neighbours' gardens. A hedgehog can travel between 1 and 2 kilometres a night in search of food and usually ranges over an area of 10 hectares.

65

Source: www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/59651864

Test format  
Note form


0	Hedgehogs are threatened with ...	extinction
1	Hedgehogs are prone to be run over by ...	
2	Hedgehogs are also killed unintentionally by gardeners who spray ...	
3	Hedgehogs are more likely to be found in ...	
4	Hedgehogs are inactive from ...	
5	You should never feed hedgehogs with ...	
6	You should ensure that hedgehogs have enough ...	
7	Hedgehogs use piles of wood or leaves for their ...	
8	People make small holes in their garden fences to create ...	

2 m

Speaking



### The Ocean Awareness Raising Contest by BOWSEAT

Google “The Ocean Awareness Raising Contest” by BOWSEAT and have a look at the winners of the 2024 contest. Then click on the image called  “[Museum of Ghosts](#)” by Ryan Chua. Get together in pairs. With a partner:

- » describe the image
- » explain what it wants to express
- » comment on the effectiveness of art to make a difference

Use the words and phrases in the VocabBooster below.

VocabBooster

perspective • to showcase • to be drawn to • artifacts • exhibition • to convey a message • the role of light / darkness • display cases

Then also discuss which other category and / or piece spoke to you the most and why.

2 n

Follow-up

### The bird count initiative

Research either “Die Stunde der Wintervögel” or “The Great Backyard Bird Count” and find out what it is and how one can participate. Then compare your results in class.



Source: Adobe Stock/dule964



2 o

Speaking

## Getting active

You and your partner want to start a project at your school focusing on endangered animals. To prepare, you and your partner discuss the most effective ways in which students at your school can help endangered species.

You (and your partner) have six to seven minutes to discuss and rank the effectiveness of these ideas:

- » participating at a volunteer program at an official institution or organisation
- » starting an awareness raising campaign
- » making changes to your school's yard (putting up bird feeders, planting flowerbeds etc.)
- » going on excursions to zoos, museums and conservational sites to learn about these species
- » taking part in and maybe even hosting contests or initiatives like the GBBC



Source: Adobe Stock/antto

Decide how you would rank these suggestions.

2 p

Writing

## Time to make a difference

You have decided to create a project at school to protect an endangered species. However, you need support, so you write a formal email to potential supporters.

In your **email** you should:

- » outline the project
- » point out the benefits of helping you for the company
- » suggest ways in which the supporter can help

Write around **250 words**.