

ANIMAL NEWS

STOP WILD ANIMAL TRADE



A pangolin

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WILD Aid, Global Wildlife Conservation and the Wildlife Conservation Society have come together to try to ban the trade in wildlife, thought to be behind the coronavirus outbreak.

Scientists say evidence points to coronavirus coming from animals, most likely horseshoe bats, and transferred via pangolins in what are called 'wet' markets, where live and dead animals are sold as food.

Other viruses such as SARS and Ebola have also been linked to animals. The wildlife organisations have come together to form the Coalition to End the Trade and are working with the European Commission to permanently ban the trade of terrestrial wild animals, to prevent any further pandemics like the one we're living through.

You can help too by signing the petition at endthetrade.com.



FOUR FREED

FOUR big cats rescued by wildlife charity Born Free have been relocated to their new forever homes in Ethiopia and South Africa.

Two cheetah cubs have found a new home at Born Free's Ensessa Kotteh wildlife sanctuary in Ethiopia, after being seized by Somali officials.

Authorities believe the cubs were snatched from their mother to be sold illegally as pets in the Middle East. The cubs were cared for at a local police station in Ethiopia before being transferred to the reserve.

Another rescue and relocation was carried out by Born Free in South Africa. Two adult leopards were given a new home at Born Free's big cat sanctuary at Shamwari Private Game Reserve after being rescued from the Bloemfontein Zoo. Mowgli, a black leopard, and a spotted leopard were being kept in poor living conditions at the zoo, with limited food and without any access to veterinary care.

Dr Chris Draper, head of animal welfare and captivity at Born Free, said: "These are two very different cases, but they highlight the problems with big cats in captivity, and the continued exploitation of wild animals."

All four of the rescued cats are settling into their new homes, although their recovery back to full health may take some time.



MINI MISHMIS BORN

RZSS

THE Royal Zoological Society of Scotland's (RZSS) Highland Wildlife Park has welcomed two Mishmi takin calves, the largest goat-antelope species in the world.

The young boys have been named Mountain and Drogo by their keepers. Mishmi takins are native to India, Myanmar and China, and are believed to be the animals that inspired the legend of the golden fleece, because of their golden coat.

Like many species, Mishmi takins are under threat in the wild because of habitat loss, hunting and competition for food from other species.

The wildlife park is currently closed but the charity hopes that it won't be too long before it can reopen and visitors can see the calves for themselves.

Questions on – Animal News



GLOSSARY

wet market – A marketplace selling fresh meat, fish produce and other perishable goods. Some wet markets sell live animals that are slaughtered upon customer purchase

SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) – A viral respiratory disease that can be transmitted from animals to people. It emerged in the early 2000s in China

Ebola – A rare and deadly virus that damages the

immune system and organs

pangolin – A mammal with large, protective scales. They are also known as scaly anteaters

terrestrial – On or relating to the Earth

legend of the golden fleece – The Greek hero Jason had to do a series of seemingly impossible tasks in order to gain the magical Golden Fleece and claim his throne

Questions on 'Stop wild animal trade'

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. Which organisations have come together to try to ban the trade in wildlife?

Part B: Deduce and infer information

B1. Why has the recent coronavirus outbreak increased calls for the trade in wildlife to be stopped?

Part C: Discussion task

C1. "Wet markets should be banned." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons for your view.

Questions on 'Four freed'

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. Thanks to the charity Born Free, where have two cheetah cubs and two adult leopards found new homes?

A2. Who is Dr Chris Draper?

Part B: Deduce and infer information

B1. Why did the big cats need to be rescued?

B2. Explain what Dr Chris Draper meant when he said of the rescues: "These are two very different cases, but they highlight the problems with big cats in captivity, and the continued exploitation of wild animals."

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

C1. Comment on the use of the phrase "forever homes".

Questions on 'Mini Mishmis born'

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. Fill the gaps in order to complete the sentences.

The Royal Zoological Society of (RZSS) Highland Wildlife Park has welcomed two calves, the largest species in the world. The young boys have been named and by their keepers. Mishmi takins are native to India, and China.

A2. Which legend are Mishmi takins believed to have inspired?

Part B: Deduce and infer information

B1. Why are Mishmi takins under threat in the wild?

B2. The wildlife park is currently closed. Why is it hoped that it won't be too long before it can reopen to visitors?

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

C1. Suggest why the Mishmi takin calves are referred to as "young boys".



NEWS SPORT ENTERTAINMENT TECHNOLOGY PUZZLES SPECIALS AND MORE

BRITAIN'S BEST KIDNAPERS THE REALITY SHOWS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THE BIGGEST NEWS STORIES AND MORE

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SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) – A viral respiratory disease that can be transmitted from animals to people. It emerged in the early 2000s in China


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A1. Which organisations have come together to try to ban the trade in wildlife?

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B1. Why has the recent coronavirus outbreak increased calls for the trade in wildlife to be stopped?

[illegible]

C1. “Wet markets should be banned.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons for your view.

[illegible]

Questions on ‘Four freed’

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. Thanks to the charity Born Free, where have two cheetah cubs and two adult leopards found new homes?

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A2. Who is Dr Chris Draper?

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Part B: Deduce and infer information

B1. Why did the big cats need to be rescued?

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B2. Explain what Dr Chris Draper meant when he said of the rescues: “These are two very different cases, but they highlight the problems with big cats in captivity, and the continued exploitation of wild animals.”

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Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation**C1.** Comment on the use of the phrase “forever homes”.

Questions on 'Mini Mishmis born'**Part A: Find and explain the facts****A1.** Fill the gaps in order to complete the sentences.

The Royal Zoological Society of (RZSS) Highland Wildlife Park has welcomed two
..... calves, the largest species in the world. The young boys have been named
..... and by their keepers. Mishmi takins are native to India, and China.

A2. Which legend are Mishmi takins believed to have inspired?

Part B: Deduce and infer information**B1.** Why are Mishmi takins under threat in the wild?

B2. The wildlife park is currently closed. Why is it hoped that it won't be too long before it can reopen to visitors?

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

C1. Suggest why the Mishmi takin calves are referred to as “young boys”.

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Teacher Answers

AIM OF THE NEWS COMPREHENSIONS: News reports are unique non-fiction texts. Being real, they naturally engage students, and with the range of topics that are covered, help to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the wider world outside the classroom. The reports are ideal for short, focused comprehension or discussion activities. Along with the opportunity to find fascinating facts and appreciate the opinions of those involved, there is plenty to be inferred and deduced to understand in more depth what is being reported. Like authors, journalists play with language, so news 'stories' are rich nuggets of text to investigate and provide the opportunity for literacy programmes.

TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE: The teacher answers are intended to provide a guide to the reading skill each question is practising. Suggestions are given for a starting point for responses that students would be expected to give at the start of KS3. Further suggestions then give fuller, more developed responses that students will work towards by the end of KS3, in preparation for the non-fiction elements of GCSE English language.

Questions on 'Stop wild animal trade'

PART A

A1. Which organisations have come together to try to ban the trade in wildlife?

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

- Wild Aid, Global Wildlife Conservation and the Wildlife Conservation Society have come together to try to ban the trade in wildlife.

Development

- The wildlife organisations have come together to form the Coalition to End the Trade and are working with the European Commission to permanently ban the trade of terrestrial wild animals.

PART B

B1. Why has the recent coronavirus outbreak increased calls for the trade in wildlife to be stopped?

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer

Starting point

- The recent coronavirus outbreak has increased calls for the trade in wildlife to be stopped because it is believed that the virus transferred from animals to humans in wet markets where animals and wild animals are sold for food and medicine.

Development

- According to scientists, it is likely that the virus came from horseshoe bats, and transferred to humans via pangolins in wet markets. Other viruses such as SARS and Ebola have also been linked to animals. This has led to the move to permanently ban the trade of terrestrial wild animals in order to prevent any further pandemics.

PART C – DISCUSSION TASK

C1. "Wet markets should be banned." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons for your view.

AGREE	DISAGREE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There should be a global ban on such markets to prevent future pandemics. Wet markets have been implicated in this outbreak and in previous outbreaks of coronaviruses, in particular SARS.• Where living animals are involved, wet markets are cruel and inhumane places.• A ban would help with wildlife conservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A blanket ban is not necessary as most wet markets do not sell wild animals.• Low income families will suffer without wet markets. They are a good source of affordable food and those without refrigeration in their homes rely on wet markets for fresh meat.• Some low-income rural communities are dependent on wild animal trade. A ban might result in more illegal trade of wild animals and the lack of control may lead to the extinction of some species. It would also make it harder to trace the origin of new infectious diseases should they occur.

Questions on 'Four freed'

PART A

A1. Thanks to the charity Born Free, where have two cheetah cubs and two adult leopards found new homes?

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer**Expected response**

- Two cheetah cubs have found a new home at Born Free's Ensessa Kotteh wildlife sanctuary in Ethiopia, and two adult leopards have been given a home at Born Free's big cat sanctuary at Shamwari Private Game reserve.

A2. Who is Dr Chris Draper?

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer**Starting point**

- Dr Chris Draper is head of animal welfare and captivity at Born Free.

Development

- Born Free is a wildlife charity.

PART B

B1. Why did the big cats need to be rescued?

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer**Starting point**

- The cheetah cubs needed to be rescued because authorities believe they were snatched from their mother. The adult leopards were rescued from the Bloemfontein Zoo because they were being kept in poor living conditions.

Development

- It is likely that the cheetah cubs were going to be sold illegally as pets in the Middle East. The adult leopards were only being given limited food at the zoo and they weren't given any access to veterinary care. Therefore, all four animals needed to be rescued.

B2. Explain what Dr Chris Draper meant when he said of the rescues: "These are two very different cases, but they highlight the problems with big cats in captivity, and the continued exploitation of wild animals."

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer**Starting point**

- Dr Draper said that the rescues were two very different cases because the animals needed rescuing for different reasons. One case involved theft and illegal trade, while the other rescue was necessary due to neglect.

Development

- The problems with big cats in captivity were highlighted because the case involving the leopards showed that even when a zoo is involved it doesn't guarantee that animals will be properly cared for. It is also clear that wild animals continue to be exploited because of the likely attempt to sell the cheetah cubs as pets. This suggests that there is still demand for such pet trade, even though it is difficult to meet the needs of cheetahs in a domestic setting.

PART C

C1. Comment on the use of the phrase "forever homes".

READING SKILL — Recognise effect of language choices

Possible answer**Starting point**

- The phrase "forever home" is used by pet breeders or animal shelters to mean a loving place where the animal can stay forever and live out its life. It is often used to try to persuade people to adopt a domestic pet.

Development

- The animals in this case are wild, so they don't need a domestic home in the usual sense. The phrase is used in this case to show that the sanctuaries will provide a permanent safe home for the rescued animals. Its use implies that Born Free has done a good job in saving the animals. This is particularly the case because of the use of the plural: "forever homes". This highlights how the charity has managed to make provision for four big cats in two different sanctuaries.

Questions on 'Mini Mishmis born'

PART A

A1. Fill the gaps in order to complete the sentences.

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer

*Starting point – some missing information correctly identified**Developed response – all missing information correctly identified*

The Royal Zoological Society of **Scotland's** (RZSS) Highland Wildlife Park has welcomed two **Mishmi takin** calves, the largest **goat-antelope** species in the world. The young boys have been named **Mountain** and **Drogo** by their keepers. Mishmi takins are native to India, **Myanmar** and China.

A2. Which legend are Mishmi takins believed to have inspired?

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

- The Mishmi takins are believed to have inspired the legend of the golden fleece.

Development

- This is because of their golden coat.

PART B

B1. Why are Mishmi takins under threat in the wild?

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer

Starting point

- Sadly, the Mishmi takins are under threat in the wild for the same reasons as many species.

Development

- The combined problems of habitat loss, hunting and competition for food from other species have made them vulnerable.

B2. The wildlife park is currently closed. Why is it hoped that it won't be too long before it can reopen to visitors?

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer

Starting point

- It is hoped that the wildlife park will open before too long so that visitors can see the calves for themselves while they are still young.

Development

- It is also important for the wildlife park to open soon because it is a charity and as such it depends upon the revenue from visitors to be able to look after the animals in its care.

PART C

C1. Suggest why the Mishmi takin calves are referred to as "young boys".

READING SKILL — Recognise effect of language choices

Possible answer

Starting point

- The Mishmi takin calves are referred to as "young boys" because it reveals the gender of the calves.

Development

- It also helps to create more interest in them. This is because the phrase makes the animals seem as if they have personalities, because boys are human males, so the animals seem more human. This is particularly the case because the phrase is used before the names of the calves are given. It helps readers to relate to the animals and care about their birth.