

Zoos

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Is it cruel to place animals in zoos?
2. Will zoos one day be banned in your country?
3. What's the difference between a zoo and an animal refuge?
4. Do you enjoy watching whales or dolphins in aquariums?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| ___ 1. modernized | a) the money earned above the costs |
| ___ 2. profits | b) to not welcome |
| ___ 3. funding | c) updated, made new |
| ___ 4. enclosure | d) returning good health and safety to animals |
| ___ 5. natural habitat | e) the ideal surroundings for a specific type of animal |
| ___ 6. captivity | f) money from outside sources to help with a program |
| ___ 7. endangered species | g) a safe place to look after sick or at-risk animals |
| ___ 8. animal refuge | h) a park that contains water species (also the tank itself) |
| ___ 9. aquarium | i) to become a highly discussed issue |
| ___ 10. rehabilitation | j) an animal group that is at risk of dying out completely |
| ___ 11. reject | k) a secure area for animals in a park or zoo |
| ___ 12. heat up | l) opposite of "the wild" |

Reading

ZOOS

Can we live without them?

1. Did you go to zoos as a child? Could we live without zoos? Some zoological parks are educational. **Modernized** zoos in large cities use **profits** for wildlife protection and research. Smaller zoos have limited **funding**. It is very costly to build zoo **enclosures** that function like an animal's **natural habitat**.
2. Some animal rights groups think **captivity** is cruel and unnecessary. They argue that animals should never be caged for public viewing. Will future zoos be limited to **endangered species** parks and **animal refuges**? Many **aquariums** are moving in this direction. The new focus is on **rehabilitation** for animals rather than entertainment for humans.
3. Reintroducing captive animals to a natural habitat is tricky. Hunting in forests and oceans can be less attractive than being hand-fed by humans. Many rehabilitated animals are **rejected** by their own species. Trainers understand that it is risky to work with wild animals. The zoo debate **heats up** whenever a deadly attack occurs in public. We know a lot about animal behavior from zoos. We also know a lot about dinosaurs. How did we learn so much about the T. rex without observing it in person?

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs. Then write the answers in your notebook.

1. What problem do zoos with limited funding have?
2. What do animal rights activists usually say about zoos?
3. What does the reading say about aquariums?
4. What sometimes happens to captive animals that are reintroduced to the wild?
5. Why does the reading mention dinosaurs?

Vocabulary Review

A. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using a vocabulary word from page 1.
Some words may not be used.

1. The elephants need a much larger _____ than the tigers.
2. Without _____, the zoo could not afford to stay open.
3. There was an attack by a killer whale at the _____.
4. There is a growing list of _____ that need protection.
5. In the _____ program, trainers taught the dolphin how to hunt for its own food.
6. Many animals live longer in the wild than they do in _____.
7. Some zoos put all of their _____ back into programs such as wildlife protection.

B. Choose the Correct Word

Choose the word that best describes the underlined word in the sentence.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In their <u>natural habitat</u>, animals know where to hunt for food and where to find water.
a) surroundings in the wild
b) water source
c) food chain
d) family at home | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. <u>Modernized</u> zoos have enclosures that are close to the animal's natural habitat.
a) smaller
b) mechanical
c) rehabilitating
d) updated | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. There will be a new animal <u>refuge</u> for endangered tigers opening soon.
a) research
b) safe haven
c) aquarium
d) large enclosure |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The mother bear <u>rejected</u> the young cubs and left them to die in the cold.
a) stayed with
b) gave birth to
c) denied
d) remembered | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The argument <u>heated up</u> when the zoo announced that another panda had died.
a) ended
b) intensified
c) calmed down
d) teamed up | |

Discussion

1. Would you want to work in a zoo? Why or why not?
2. Should schools organize field trips to the zoo, or is it enough to teach about animals with books and videos?
3. Why do animal attacks happen in zoos?
4. What should zoos do with profits?

Class Opinion

Walk around the class and ask your classmates questions. Write their answers in the chart below.

Classmate's name:	Should humans try to save endangered wild animals?	Should all zoos be non-profit?	Which animals should NOT be placed in zoos?

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

ZOOS

Can we live without them?

1. Did you go to zoos as a child? Could we live without zoos? Some zoological parks are _____. Modernized zoos in large cities use profits for wildlife protection and research. Smaller zoos have limited funding. It is very costly to build zoo enclosures that function like an _____ natural habitat.
2. Some animal rights groups think captivity is cruel and _____. They argue that animals should never be caged for public viewing. Will future zoos be limited to endangered species parks and animal refuges? Many aquariums are moving in this direction. The new focus is on rehabilitation for animals rather than _____ for humans.
3. Reintroducing captive animals to a natural _____ is tricky. Hunting in forests and oceans can be less attractive than being hand-fed by humans. Many rehabilitated animals are rejected by their own species. Trainers understand that it is risky to work with wild animals. The zoo debate heats up whenever a deadly attack occurs in public. We know a lot about animal behavior from zoos. We also know a lot about dinosaurs. How did we learn so much about the T. rex without _____ it in person?

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

The zoo debate heats up every time an animal in captivity attacks a human or dies unexpectedly. In this lesson, students discuss whether zoos are necessary or not. This lesson includes a reading, a gap-fill task, vocabulary review, and comprehension and discussion questions.

TEACHING TIPS:

See *Discussion Starters Teaching Guide* (<https://esllibrary.com/courses/72/lessons/>) for a variety of ways to use the reading.

LEVEL: Int

TIME: 1.5–2 hours

TAGS: discussion, debate, environment, zoos, animal rights, polar bears, captivity

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. c | 3. f | 5. e | 7. j | 9. h | 11. b |
| 2. a | 4. k | 6. l | 8. g | 10. d | 12. i |

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

Comprehension

- It is difficult for small zoos to build enclosures similar to an animal’s natural habitat.
- Animal rights activists believe that animals should not be caged for public viewing.
- According to the reading, many aquariums are shifting their focus to animal needs rather than human interests.
- Those animals are often rejected by their own species.
- The reading mentions dinosaurs to get the reader to think about the topic in a new way. Humans have learned a lot about dinosaurs without seeing these creatures firsthand.

Vocabulary Review

A. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1. enclosure | 4. endangered | 6. captivity |
| 2. funding | species | 7. profits |
| 3. aquarium | 5. rehabilitation | |

B. CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. a | 2. c | 3. d | 4. b | 5. b |
|------|------|------|------|------|

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Discussion

Answers will vary.

Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

Class Opinion

Have your students walk around the class and complete the survey.

Listening

1. educational, animal's
2. unnecessary, entertainment
3. habitat, observing

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the word *Behavior*.

Other English-speaking countries spell it this way: *Behaviour*.

Make it a challenge for your students to find this word in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spelling.