

Activities on this handout are modified and adapted from:

www.Breaking News English.com

Internet trade threatens exotic animals

URL: <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0508/050817-animals.html>

WARM-UPS

1. ANIMAL TRADING: In pairs, talk about how far you agree with these opinions on trading in animals and animal products:

- a. Trading in animals is no different from farming and killing animals.
- b. There is little difference between using leather from cows and snake skin.
- c. Traditional Chinese medicine should be exempt from international regulations.
- d. Big profits and the commercial demand for animals will ensure their survival.
- e. People caught selling endangered species should get 30 years in prison.
- f. People will never stop buying fur coats or ivory bracelets.
- g. The best answer is to breed the animals and legalize the sale of their products.
- h. A tiger skin coat looks absolutely beautiful.

BEFORE READING

2. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. There are collectors who want to buy stuffed rhinoceros heads. T / F
- b. Internet shoppers are increasing the threat to endangered species. T / F
- c. Many animals die in coffins that are nailed down. T / F

- | | |
|--|-------|
| d. A one-week Web search discovered vast quantities of animals for sale. | T / F |
| e. Many animals are being smuggled on icebergs. | T / F |
| f. The Web exacerbates the problem because traders are anonymous. | T / F |
| g. The current legal framework adequately protects animals. | T / F |
| h. A conservationist urged consumers to kill animals themselves. | T / F |

3. SYNONYM MATCH: write the letter of the given word in the space beside its synonym

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| a. endangered | _____ put together |
| b. poachers | _____ concealed |
| c. nail in the coffin | _____ fueled |
| d. compiled | _____ remunerative |
| e. intensive | _____ deathblow |
| f. lucrative | _____ worsens |
| g. exacerbates | _____ dire |
| h. anonymous | _____ threatened |
| i. appalling | _____ exhaustive |
| j. driven | _____ illegal hunters |

4. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| a. endangered species are under | _____ by consumer demand |
| b. collectors wanting stuffed | _____ numbers of other products |
| c. represents another nail | _____ rhino heads |
| d. turtle and | _____ enforcement efforts are inadequate |
| e. There were also unspecified | _____ the situation |
| f. The report represents the tip | _____ threat from yet another source |
| g. The World Wide Web exacerbates | _____ appalling situation |
| h. The current legal framework and | _____ tortoise shells |
| i. deal with this | _____ in the coffin for many creatures |
| j. Trade in wildlife is driven | _____ of the iceberg |

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THE ARTICLE

Internet trade threatens exotic animals

BNE: The world's endangered species are under threat from yet another source, in addition to poachers, collectors wanting stuffed rhino heads and Chinese medicine practitioners. Internet shoppers are creating a boom in the sale of exotic animals that represents another nail in the coffin for many creatures threatened with extinction. This is according to a report compiled by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). The report "Caught In The Web - Wildlife Trade On The Internet" found in "an intensive one-week Web search", 146 live primates, 5,527 elephant products, 526 turtle and tortoise shells, 2,630 reptile products and 239 wild cat products for sale. There were also unspecified numbers of other products.

The report represents the tip of the iceberg. Experts estimate the lucrative illegal global trade is worth billions of dollars a year. The World Wide Web exacerbates the situation. "Trade on the Internet is easy, cheap and anonymous. The result is a cyber black market where the future of the world's rarest animals is being traded away," said IFAW's Phyllis Campbell-McRae. The report recommended tougher worldwide protection: "The current legal framework and enforcement efforts are inadequate to deal with this appalling situation. A more effective response is essential." Ms. Campbell-McRae warned: "Trade in wildlife is driven by consumer demand, so when the buying stops, the killing will too. Buying wildlife online is as damaging as killing it yourself."

AFTER READING

5. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. Ask your partner the meaning of the unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

6. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the article:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| • source | • tip |
| • boom | • exacerbates |
| • coffin | • black |
| • compiled | • inadequate |
| • intensive | • response |
| • unspecified | • killing |

7. QUICK DEBATE: Student A thinks poachers and traders in exotic species should receive life in prison. Student B thinks poachers and traders in exotic species should receive heavy fines.

HOMEWORK DISCUSSION

- How would you feel if the giant panda became extinct?
- What would you do if you saw someone wearing a tiger skin coat?
- Do you think it's OK for animals to be killed for use in Chinese medicine?
- Do you think people will ever stop buying exotic animal goods?
- Do you think endangered animals should be commercially farmed and killed to cut out the black market and prevent poaching?
- Do you have a responsibility to do something to protect the world's threatened creatures?