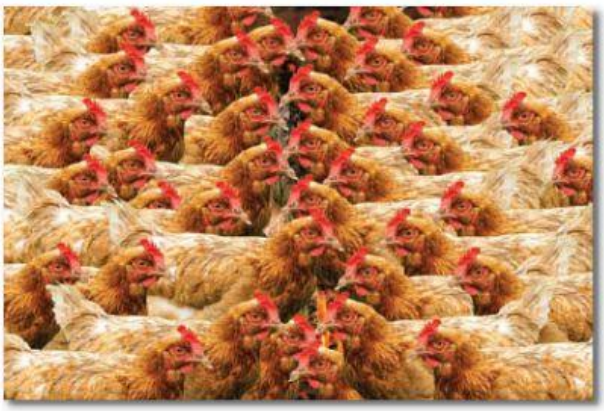
5 Animal Rights

1. There is much disagreement as to whether animals have rights or not. What do you think? Look at the pictures and, in groups, discuss the following questions, keeping notes:

- ✓ Are animals man's property?
- ✓ Is it alright if we kill animals for food?
- ✓ Is it alright if we use animals for hard labour?
- ✓ Is it alright if we use animals for entertainment?
- ✓ Can you think of any other cases that cause disagreement concerning animal rights?
- ✓ Which treatment is considered unethical?
- ✓ Can using or killing animals be justified for special reasons?



LIVEWORKSHEETS

2. Read the adapted newspaper article about animal testing experiments and then do the tasks below.

The Observer
Animal experimentation

Scientists told to stop wasting animal lives

http://www.theguardian.com/science/2015/apr/18/animal-lives-wasted-in-drugs-safety-tests

Research agencies have ordered UK scientists to improve the way they use animals in experiments. Too often poorly designed projects – to test new medicines for strokes, cancer and other conditions – have produced meaningless results and wasted animals' lives, the organisations have warned.

In some cases, researchers – desperate to control the costs of their work – have underestimated the number of animals needed to test a new medicine. As a result, their tiny studies have lacked the power to pinpoint biological effects in the drugs under scrutiny. These unreliable results mean the lives of the animals involved have been wasted, along with scientists' time and resources. The over-use of animals in experiments has also led to unnecessary loss of their lives.

The problem of poorly designed studies has been under investigation for two years and culminated, last week, in Research Councils UK – the umbrella group for the councils that fund UK research –announcing changes to its guidelines for those carrying out research using animals. Scientists will now have to show their work will not only produce physiological insights but will also generate statistically robust data. If not, they will lose their funding.

"There has been an increasing awareness that some animal experiments are not sufficiently robust. These guidelines should therefore be welcomed, although they have taken a long time to be introduced," said neuroscientist Malcolm Macleod of Edinburgh University.

In 2013, 4.12 million scientific procedures on animals – mostly rats and mice – were started in Great Britain. Half involved breeding genetically modified animals while the other half involved experiments on unmodified animals. Many of these are done to test drugs before human trials are launched. However, it takes a fairly large number of animals to reveal whether a drug is having a pharmacological effect, said Macleod.

Mark Prescott, head of research policy for the UK National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research, said the guidelines represented a change for the scientific community.

"Yes, you can use animals in experiments, but no more than necessary – and no fewer. It is ethically questionable to get the numbers wrong either way."

3. Answer the following questions about the article.

a. What would be a suitable title for it?

b. What is the main point?

c. Based on the research reported in the article, what should be done about animal experiments?

4. In pairs, read the text again carefully and decide if the following sentences are true, false or not mentioned. Write *T*, *F* or *NM* in the boxes provided.

1.	There are serious reasons why animals are used in experiments.	
2.	Some research provide untrustworthy results.	
3.	The scientific community needs to use the latest data in order to make confident studies.	
4.	It is fair to use the animals in experiments.	
5.	Drugs should be tested on human beings only.	
6.	A large number of animals have suffered unnecessarily.	

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5. For questions 1-6, choose the answer (*a*, *b* or *c*) which you think fits best with the meaning of the text.

1.	Who is this text addressed to?	**a.** neutroscientists **b.** researchers **c.** public
2.	The primary purpose of the article is to:	**a.** provide solutions **b.** report a problem **c.** argue for the issue
3.	Why has the writer written this article?	**a.** to raise awareness **b.** to give useful facts **c.** to explain
4.	The neuroscientist suggests that animal experiments should be more robust, that is:	**a.** cruel **b.** reliaable **c.** restricted
5.	What does the word ***these*** in the fifth paragraph refer to?	**a.** genetically modified animals **b.** experiments on animals **c.** rats and mice
6.	What is the writer's opinion about animal testing experiments?	**a.** they should be banned **b.** they should be well-planned **c.** they should be respect animals' lives

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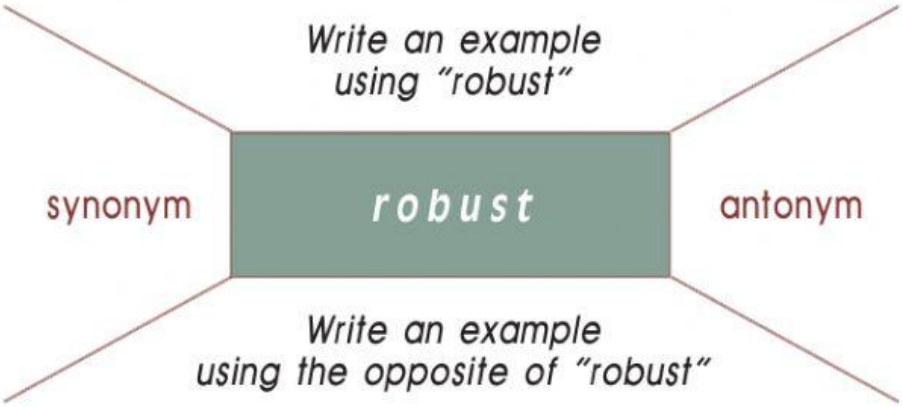
6. Match the words below in the text *(1-8)* with their definitions *(a-h)*.

1.	robust	.....	**a.**	financial support
2.	insight	.....	**b.**	reach a point of highest development
3.	refinement	.....	**c.**	identify with great accuracy or precision
4.	scrutiny	.....	**d.**	the process of making a substance pure
5.	agency	.....	**e.**	strong and reliable
6.	funding	.....	**f.**	organisation representing a group of people
7.	culminate	.....	**g.**	clear understanding of a complicated problem
8.	pinpoint	.....	**h**	detailed examination to get more information

7. In groups, make a concept cube for each of the above words and stick it on your word wall.



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Grammar

8. Read the following sentences from the article and answer the questions.

a. These unreliable results mean the lives of the animals involved **have been wasted.**

b. These guidelines **should** therefore **be welcomed**, although they have taken a long time **to be introduced.**

c. In 2013, 4.12 million scientific procedures on animals –mostly rats and mice– **were started** in Great Britain.

d. The problem of poorly designed experiments **was identified** in a recent survey of scientific papers.

- ✓ What do the highlighted verb forms have in common?
- ✓ When do we choose to use such forms?
- ✓ How does a passive sentence differ from an active one?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

9. Read the following text and in pairs:

a. Try to explain to each other what happens in American factory farms without using any passive voice sentences.

b. Write a summary of the article in the active voice. How easy is it?

Closer Look at Animals on Factory Farms

Farm Animals Need Our Help

In polling, 94% of Americans agree that animals raised for food deserve to live free from abuse and cruelty. Yet the majority of the nearly 10 billion farm animals raised each year in the U.S. suffer in conditions that consumers would not accept if they could see them. Most of our meat, milk and eggs come from industrial farms where efficiency trumps welfare – and animals are paying the price.

Factory Farms

A factory farm is a large, industrial operation that raises large numbers of animals for food. Over 99% of farm animals in the U.S. are raised in factory farms, which focus on profit and efficiency at the expense of animal welfare.

Chickens

The United States raises and slaughters almost 10 times more birds than any other type of animal. Approximately 8.5 billion chickens are killed for their meat every year, while another 300 million chickens are used in egg production. All birds –egg-laying hens, meat chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese and others– are excluded from all federal animal protection laws. By the numbers, these are the animals most urgently in need of protection. The ASPCA is focused on raising public awareness about the plight of chickens raised for meat and is working actively with companies that buy or raise chickens toward the adoption of better prices.

Many people do not realize that the breed of chicken used for modern egg production is different than the breed used for meat production. If you put them next to each other, they look almost nothing alike! Each has been strategically bred for hyperproduction: egg-laying hens for high egg volume, and "meat" chickens for maximum breast meat. Both types suffer from severe physical problems brought on by genetic manipulation...

http://www.aspca.org/animal-cruelty/farm-animal-welfare

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10. You will hear a BBC radio talk. Then do the tasks below.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00545f8

- ✓ What is the topic of the talk?
- ✓ Give a title to the talk.

11. You will hear a TED talk. For questions 1-10, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

http://www.ted.com/talks/ewart_brand_the_dawn_of_de_extinction_are_you_ready

1	This had been the most _____ in the world that'd been in North America for six million years.
2	They were so dense that hundreds of hunters and netters could show up and _____ them.
3	It was _____ for its feathers.
4	This was an animal that basically kept the forest mixed with _____ across the entire Europe and Asian continent.
5	I started with my wife, Ryan Phelan, who ran a _____ called DNA Direct.
6	All she needed from those _____ at the Smithsonian was a little bit of toe pad tissue.
7	Then the question is, _____, with that genome, the whole bird?

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8	It's kind of like a(n) _____ machine.
9	You try combinations of _____ that you write at the cell level and then in organs on a chip.
10	So what you're getting is the capability now of replacing one gene _____ of that gene.

12. Brainstorm five reasons why keeping animals in captivity is wrong. Add any reasons you consider important.

Make a **Mindmap** in your notebook.

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