

READING

Saving Baghdad Zoo

In April 2003, a war was happening in the middle eastern country of Iraq. Soldiers were invading, and a lot of Iraqi people were suffering and dying.

In Iraq's capital, Baghdad, the animals in Baghdad Zoo were suffering too. Bombs started to fall on the city. It was difficult for the zookeepers to find food for the animals. By April some of the animals were dying because they were hungry. Because of the bombs, a lot of the cages had holes in them, and some lions and tigers were walking around freely.

In South Africa, one of the world's most famous conservationists, Lawrence Anthony, was watching the war on the news. He knew that Baghdad had the biggest zoo in the Middle East. Immediately, he contacted the American soldiers and offered to help.

Lawrence flew to Kuwait, rented a car and drove 500 miles to Baghdad. When he arrived, the zoo was worse than he imagined. There were just 35 animals left alive – hundreds were dead or missing from their cages.

Lawrence quickly organized a team of people to help him rebuild the zoo and look after the animals. Several months later, the zoo reopened, so he went home. Thanks to his work, today the zoo has more than 1,000 animals.



Lawrence Anthony at Baghdad Zoo



1. Read the text. Find out words in the text which fit the definitions below.

- a) explosive missiles used in wars
- b) people who care for animals in a zoo
- c) lost or absent
- d) care for
- e) people who work to protect animals or the environment
- f) people who fight in a war
- g) an enclosed space

2. Read the text again and decide whether the following are true or false.

- | | T | F |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 There were soldiers in Iraq in April 2003. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2 The zoo animals had a lot of food. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3 Some lions and tigers escaped through the holes in their cages. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4 Lawrence flew from South Africa to Baghdad. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 5 When Lawrence arrived, there were 500 animals alive in the zoo. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 6 After Lawrence left, the zoo opened again. | ☐ | ☐ |

3. Read the text again fill in the boxes with information from the text.

- 1 people suffered because of the war.
- 2 Baghdad an important city in Iraq.
- 3 Some animals died because .
- 4 Lawrence famous outside South Africa.
- 5 When Lawrence arrived, animals were dead.
- 6 Lawrence worked to rebuild the zoo.