

Impact 1/ Unit 4/ Reading Enrichment

Why might baboons and humans come into contact with each other?

Human-wildlife conflict is a big problem all over the world today, and it's getting bigger. Imagine finding a baboon or two eating breakfast at your table! That would definitely be a conflict between a human, you, and wildlife, the baboons! Because baboons are **wild**, this type of conflict could be dangerous.

In Cape Town, South Africa, humans are interacting with baboons more than ever, right in their own neighbourhoods. Because about half of the natural baboon habitat and food in this region disappeared, baboons needed to find new ways to get food. So they started going into urban areas and stealing the food they need for survival.

Baboons are very clever animals. Once they learn that they can easily get food from humans, they won't try as hard to

hunt for their own food. People who live near baboon habitats have to control this behaviour by limiting the baboons' access to human food and rubbish.

Both humans and wildlife need

protection from each other. Luckily, in some places in South Africa, there are people who work as baboon monitors. Their job is to keep baboons away from homes. Because baboons are afraid of loud noises, monitors use noise-making devices to frighten them away. They might also use paintballs to frighten the baboons.

The monitors don't form relationships with the baboons, but they don't mistreat

them either. They simply work to limit conflicts between humans and wildlife.



Now answer the questions.

(A) Match the words to their definitions.

Definition	Words
1. Living in a natural environment without any help from people	Habitat
2. The natural home or environment of an animal or plant.	Disappeared
3. A serious disagreement or argument.	Wild
4. To approach or enter a place.	Conflict
5. To be lost or missing and become impossible to find.	Access

(B) Answer in a complete sentence.

1. Why do baboons find new ways to get food?

2. What is the job of baboon monitors?

3. What do baboon monitors use to frighten the baboons away?
(Mention 2 things).

1. _____

2. _____

4. Do the monitors form relationships with the baboons? Justify your answer.
