Koalas

The cuddly koala is in danger. This lovable animal is now an endangered species. The Australian Koala Foundation believes there are as few as 43,000 left in the wild. Their numbers have been falling due to disease, loss of habitat, bushfires, and other threats. The World Wildlife Fund said: "Koalas have gone from no listing to vulnerable to endangered within a decade." It added that koalas risk "sliding toward extinction". It wanted laws to protect them.

The koala is important for Australia's culture, zoos and economy. Wikipedia says the koala "benefited the national tourism industry by over an estimated billion Australian dollars in 1998". However, efforts to protect the koala have not worked. Australia said there were "many pressures on the koala," and that it is "vulnerable to climate change and to disease". It said recent bushfires that killed thousands of the animals were "a tipping point".

1. What is the reading about?
a. Endangered species in Australia
b. The Koala is now an endangered species in Australia.
c. Australian Culture

2. What is the synonym of 'lovable'?
a. cuddly/adorable
b. Repulsive
c. Cute

3. What is the closest meaning for 'endangered'?
a. Strong
b. Safe
c. At threat of extinction

4. What is the closest meaning for 'falling numbers'?
a. increasing
b. stable
c. decreasing/declining

5. Why have Koala numbers been falling?
a. People hunt koalas to keep as pets
b. Disease, loss of habitat, bushfires
c. Koalas don't have access to food

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6. Why is the Koala important?
a. The Koala helps the environment
b. The Koala helps culture, tourism and the economy
c. Koalas provide excellent bush meat

7. What's the synonym of 'in danger'?
a. Safe
b. Protected
c. Threat

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