

Lion Lights

1 Richard Turere is a member of the Masai tribe from central and eastern Africa. The Masai are traditionally farmers and often keep cattle, an important source of food and income for them. When Richard was a little boy, a big problem for the Masai was that lions would come to their farms and kill their cattle. The lions would often attack at night when it was harder to guard the cattle. The only solution seemed to be to kill the lions. This practice had some degree of success in terms of protecting their cattle, but the Masai weren't very happy about doing this because it was reducing the population of lions.



2 In the Masai tribe, young boys are responsible for protecting their fathers' cattle. Richard Turere used to guard his father's only bull. One day when he was 11, he woke up and found that a lion had killed it. 1 _____.

His first idea was to use fire, based on the fact that lions are scared of fire. This plan didn't work at all. 2 _____. Richard had to come up with something else.

3 His next idea was to use a scarecrow. Richard hoped that he could trick the lions into thinking that there was a person standing guard, but lions are pretty smart. 3 _____. And then they went in to attack the farm animals.

One night Richard walked around in the cowshed with a flashlight. That night no lions approached the cowshed, so he figured out that they were afraid of the moving light. And being imaginative, he had a new idea.

4 As a bright young man, Richard used to play with things to see how they worked, and he'd learned a lot about electrical gadgets that way. He got a battery and a solar panel to charge it and then he got a signal box from an old motorcycle – the box that makes a light blink to show the direction a driver is turning. 4 _____. The bulbs flashed throughout the night, and the lions thought that someone was walking around inside the cowshed when really everyone was in bed asleep. 5 _____.

5 Since Richard invented his "lion lights," his father has not lost any more cattle to lion attacks. And now Richard's idea is being used in many different places to keep lions, leopards, and elephants away from farms and homes for good. 6 _____. He was also invited to talk at a conference in the U.S. 7 _____.

Read the article and match titles A–F with the sections 1–5. There is one extra title.

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|---|---|--------------------------|
| A | The lions are finally fooled | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B | A noise scares the lions | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C | No success with scarecrows | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| D | The dilemma of the Masai people | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| E | The outcomes for animals and the inventor | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| F | An idea that didn't quite work | <input type="checkbox"/> |