

New Animals

In northern Vietnam, in thick forests in the North Annamite Mountains, there is a wildlife park called Vu Quang. In 1986, the area was made an official forest reserve. In 2002, 550 square kilometres of the area were declared a National Park. Vu Quang is no ordinary park, though. It's in an area that is hard to get to, for one thing. And it's an area that's difficult to walk through because the rocks are covered with algae and are very slippery. But that's not all that is unusual about Vu Quang. In the last twenty years, several new species of animals that have never been discovered there. Some of them are so new that scientists haven't given them official names yet!

The new animals discovered at the park include the Vu Quang ox or Saola, a slow deer, a giant muntjac (the world's largest, in fact), a black deer and a holy goat. Five new species of fish have also been found there, as well as two species of amphibians and 15 species of reptiles.

The Saola was the first new species of large mammal to be discovered in more than fifty years, so it caused a lot of excitement in the scientific world. It is a strange goat-like creature that looks as if it is somehow related to cattle. It has horns that can be between one and two feet long, and that seem to come out of the animal's head at slightly different angles. That's where the animal got its name from Saola in Vietnamese means spinning wheel posts.

The creature had hidden safely for generations in the Vu Quang Area. But once it was discovered, it was in danger. Hunters have no respect for new species. Sadly, the Saola is now being hunted and may well end up as another endangered species.

1. Between 1986 and 2002, the area was
 - a. a national park
 - b. a mountain
 - c. a wildlife reserve
 - d. a forest reserve
2. It wouldn't be a good idea to go trekking in the area because
 - a. there are too many rocks
 - b. it's cold and wet
 - c. it's slippery underfoot
 - d. it's easy to get lost
3. Some of the new species
 - a. don't have official names
 - b. are birds
 - c. have been seen elsewhere in the world
 - d. were discovered elsewhere first
4. The largest In the world has been discovered at Vu Quang.
 - a. goat
 - b. muntjac
 - c. ox
 - d. deer
5. The Saola is so named because it
 - a. looks like a goat
 - b. has a strange head
 - c. is related to cattle
 - d. has weird horns
6. The Saola and other new species are now
 - a. being hunted
 - b. increasing in numbers
 - c. hidden from view
 - d. endangered

WOW: Water of Wanting

Jean Pascal put a small drop of clear liquid into the drinking water of his mice.

1.....But Jean soon noticed that when there was liquid in the water, they come back to drink it more than usual. They couldn't have been thirsty anymore, but they drank. He needed to check this carefully.

Jean was not a brilliant chemist. He worked in Montreal, Canada, for a large chemical company. His company made a lot of different chemicals- including chemicals for food, which are often called additives. Additives give food a different color or flavor or even make it last longer.

2.....

The mice kept coming back for more water. Their stomachs were already completely full of liquid, but they still wanted to drink more. They just couldn't get enough water which Jean's additive in it. They didn't want to eat any food at all. 3.....And, amazingly, they were still trying to reach the water when they died.

He cut the amount of WOW that he added to his mice's water by half. 4.....Then he added much smaller amounts of WOW: the mice drank less, but they still came back for little drinks of water all the time. These little drinks were still far more than the mice needed. It was as if they had become addicted to water. They weren't interested in anything else. They didn't even want food. This time they didn't die of too much water. They all died of hunger.

Put one of the following sentences in each space. There is one sentence you won't need.

- A. Food companies pay a lot of money for additives which work well.
- B. Normally. The mice drank only when they were thirsty.
- C. Soon they died because their tiny bodies were too full of water.
- D. It was big and expensive, and it exploded in his face
- E. The results were the same.

Choose the correct way to complete the statements, according to the text.

- 1. In his first experiment, Jean observed that
 - a. the mice were eating more than usual
 - b. the liquid affected the mice's thirst
 - c. the mice died almost immediately
 - d. he had put too much liquid into water
- 2. Food additives
 - a. can keep food fresh for longer
 - b. are mostly manufactured in Canada
 - c. are mostly manufactured in Canada
 - d. do not change the way something tastes
- 3. In the second experiment,
 - a. the WOW concentration was doubled
 - b. the mice still drank even more than was necessary
 - c. the mice drank even more than before
 - d. the mice died the same way as in the first experiment