

LISTENING 9

Bioinvasion

Radio documentary

You are going to listen to an extract from a radio wildlife documentary.

1. Read the article about the documentary and match the underlined words to their definitions (1–7).



Do animals have nationalities?

In Our Nature – Channel Six, Thursday, 8 p.m.

We all know that the giant panda is the national symbol of China and that the kiwi only lives in New Zealand. But of course, most species don't respect national borders. A single polar bear was tracked 3,000 miles from Alaska to Canada to Greenland, and lions are native to many countries in Africa, as well as a small area of India. Animals, it seems, can be found wherever their habitat exists, whether it is grassland, bamboo forest or the Arctic sea.

Animals don't have nationalities in the way that humans do, but does that mean they can go wherever they like? What happens when species are transported or migrate to a new home?

Different species, from the largest mammals to the smallest bacteria, share the same area and interact with each other in a complex ecosystem. So, what happens when new species arrive? What problems will there be? And even if a species turns out to be a pest in its new home, isn't migration a normal process in the natural world?

Tune in to have these, and many more, questions answered by our panel of experts.

- 1 an animal that causes problems in an area, especially if it eats the food of other species _____
- 2 all the animals and plants that live together and depend on each other _____
- 3 animals that are born from their mother, not in an egg, and that drink milk that their mother produces _____
- 4 move to another part of the world _____
- 5 having always existed in that place _____
- 6 a group of animals or plants that are similar and that can produce young animals or plants together _____
- 7 the type of place that an animal or plant lives and grows in _____

2. Listen to the extract from the radio documentary and choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1 The programme describes a problem
 - A that can cause a lot of damage.
 - B that is easy to detect immediately.
 - C that may not even exist.
- 2 People who arrived in New Zealand
 - A brought a European species there on purpose.
 - B accidentally introduced the brushtail possum with them.
 - C needed a mammal species that they could hunt.
- 3 Possums
 - A are still a valuable source of food and protection from the cold.
 - B have a population that is ten times greater than the human population.
 - C suffered from a disease they caught from farm animals.
- 4 Bioinvasion science
 - A only concerns animals that are moved by people to new places.
 - B focuses on animals rather than plants.
 - C recognises the importance of human action in the process of bioinvasion.
- 5 The programme discusses
 - A why 'bioinvasion' is not a very suitable name for what happens.
 - B a species that is a worse bioinvader than humans.
 - C ways to stop animals accidentally travelling in ships and aeroplanes.

3. Complete the sentences about the documentary with the words in the box.

contributor	fresh	outnumbering	pest
rethinking	settlers		

- 1 The programme is going to take a _____ look at the field known as bioinvasion science.
- 2 The first European _____ arrived in New Zealand in the nineteenth century.
- 3 The population of possums reached 70 million in 1980, _____ humans by ten to one.
- 4 The possum is viewed as a major _____ by New Zealanders, responsible for causing ecological disaster.
- 5 By far the biggest _____ to the problem of bioinvasion is human activity.
- 6 Some scientists are _____ the whole issue and looking at it from the animals' point of view