

UNIT 6: ENDANGERED SPECIES

2 Below are three people's opinions posted on the fantasticwildlife.org website. Read the text and decide what they are talking about.

- A. Why endangered animals should be protected.
- B. How to protect endangered species.
- C. Whether or not we should protect endangered species.

fantasticwildlife.org



 Let's just put ourselves in endangered animals' shoes. How would we feel if the animals ruled the world and we became the ones in danger of extinction? We are living creatures and so are the animals. We can no longer attribute the rapid extinction of species to natural causes such as earthquakes or drought. Today many plants and animals are becoming endangered or extinct because of habitat destruction, over-harvesting and poaching. It's our duty to start repairing the damage we've caused to nature.

YOSHIKO (Japan) 

 If we continue to save endangered animals, then we stop animals from replacing other animals. Extinction is just a part of the evolutionary process and we must not interfere with it. Hence, trying to save species that cannot survive in their environment is rather silly, because it's against the laws of nature. So, let mother nature do her job. What's more, not all animals are friendly or harmless. Elephants and tigers are two examples of animals that are dangerous. People living near some nature reserves have to face constant threats to their livestock and crops. Then should we protect these animals at the expense of local people's lives?

AI LIEN (Viet Nam) 

 Animal and plant extinction can ruin the ecosystem and reduce biodiversity. All creatures are part of an ecosystem. They all help humans in some way. For example, over 50% of the medicines currently in use are derived from natural products made from animals or plants. By losing biodiversity, we are losing the chance to discover new medicines that could save the lives of millions of people each year. What's more, nature is beautiful, and that's the best reason to preserve it. Walking in a rainforest or going scuba-diving over a coral reef helps us to relax and feel at peace.

sachmem.vn

3 Whose opinions are these? Write the correct name in the space before each statement.

SIMON

SIMON

YOSHIKO

YOSHOKO

AI LIEN

AI LIEN

1. _____ There are two reasons why we should protect endangered species.
2. _____ There are two reasons why we shouldn't protect endangered species.
3. _____ Humans should be held responsible for endangering species or driving them to extinction.
4. _____ Saving species in danger of extinction means going against the laws of nature.
5. _____ Humans and animals should get an equal chance of being protected from danger.
6. _____ Preserving animal and plant species helps to maintain biodiversity.

4 Find the prepositions in the reading text to complete these phrases and expressions. Use a dictionary to find their meanings.

WITH	IN	TO	AT	TO
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be free from anxiety or distress

believe that something is the result of a particular thing

prevent something from being done

be in another person's situation

harm something

Phrases and expressions	Meanings
1. to put oneself _____ someone's shoes	_____
2. to attribute something (a result) _____ something else (a cause)	_____
3. to cause damage _____ something	_____
4. to interfere _____ something	_____
5. to feel _____ peace	_____