Out of the Wild, into Our Homes

Many of the earth's creatures die because of choices humans make. These choices have nothing to do with food or shelter or anything else that helps humans survive. What kills these millions of animals from all over the world is human greed – the desire for money.

People use parts of animals for everything from hats to handbags, from ornamental jewellery and ashtrays to powders that supposedly improve a person's life. Declaring a species endangered and protecting it by laws is not always enough. Poachers, people who kill wildlife illegally, rarely get caught.

During the late 1980s, saving elephants became a popular cause. Wildlife protection groups made sure everyone saw pictures or films of elephants with their faces sawed off for their ivory tusks. These groups also proved that certain populations of elephants were dwindling.

As a result, most people stopped buying objects made of ivory. Laws against poaching were strengthened. Many countries made bringing ivory in from other countries illegal. Killing elephants for their ivory became more risky and less profitable.

However, concern for a certain species tends to fade after a while. In the late 1970s, people protested against the slaughter of seal pups. Everyone was shocked at the sight of pups being clubbed to death in their icy habitat. The brutality came to a halt. But ten years later, the number of seal pups killed was higher than ever.

Other animal protection movements have come and gone, such as saving the whales and protecting dolphins from the tuna fishermen. The whale population appears to have increased for now. And the laws are finally changing in the United States to protect the dolphins that swim with tuna fish in parts of the Pacific Ocean.

In the 2010s, the protests and the publicity will probably turn to some other endangered species. Plenty of them urgently need attention. During this time, will the elephants be forgotten?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Refer to the reading passage *Out of the Wild, into Our Homes* and look at the following statements. Write

TRUE	if the statement is true;
FALSE	if the statement is false;
NOT GIVEN	if the information is not given in the passage.

9. Many of the animals on Earth die because humans have to survive.
10. It is normally enough when an animal species is declared endangered and protected by laws.
11. People who kill animals illegally often get away without being caught.
12. Wildlife protection groups proved that the number of some elephant species is decreasing.
13. Poachers are severely punished if they kill the endangered species such as elephants.
14. In the late 1980s, people killed more seal pups than they did in the late 1970s.
15. The whale population is finally increasing because of stricter laws.
16. In the 2010s, people may not be so concerned about elephants as before.

LIVEWORKSHEETS