## Reading and speaking

**5** Read this short article about two animals in the UAE. What activity was threatening them with extinction?

The UAE is well known for its enormous variety of wildlife – **mammals**, **birds**, **reptiles** and **amphibians**. And this is mainly because the region is very concerned about nature and the natural environment.

Some of the animals that are found in the region include the **Arabian oryx** and the **Arabian leopard**. Forty years ago, both of these animals were almost **extinct** in the wild as a result of hunting activities.

Thanks to important and urgent **conservation** work, successful **breeding** programmes were introduced. Now, both these animals are growing in numbers in the wild.

To ensure that the Arabian oryx and Arabian leopard remain part of the Emirati landscape and culture, both animals have now been protected by law.

Arabian oryx

Arabian leopard

**Read the text again and discuss the questions.**

1. **Why is there still an enormous variety of wildlife in the Emirates?**
2. **What are the two animals mentioned in the article?**
3. **Was the situation the same 40 years ago? If not, what was the situation?**
4. **Today the number of these animals is growing. How did this happen?**
5. **What additional action was done to help protect these two animals in the future?**
6. **What other animals do you know that are typical of your region?**