

Academic Essay Pre-reading: Rhino Poaching

Questions

1. Nowadays, are there more wild animals in the world or fewer? Why?

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2. What is happening to the number of species in the world? Why?

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3. Is it a big problem if some species of animals become extinct? Why/Why not?

.....

.....

[Vocabulary]

Find the definitions and meanings of the following words and phrases:

- 1. Facing extinction _____
- 2. Horn _____
- 3. Drones _____
- 4. Surgically de-horned _____
- 5. Traditional Chinese medicine _____
- 6. Valuable _____

[Pre-reading]

1. In many parts of the world, people hunt without a license or they hunt animals that are protected by governments and wildlife parks. Poaching wildlife that is protected in **conservation parks** is a huge¹ problem in Africa and Asia. Many criminal gangs are involved in illegal hunting for rhino **horn**.
2. Animals, large and small, have a place in the eco-system. Whenever a species becomes **extinct**, many of the other animals and plants that live in its eco-system suffer. However, many animals today are threatened with extinction through human activity. This happens in different ways but one of the most common ones is **poaching**.
3. The reason poachers are targeting the rhinos is to take their horn. The horn is used in **traditional medicine** in Asia. People believe it can cure many different types of sicknesses. However, there is no scientific research that shows this is true. However, because there is still great demand for the horn in Asia, it is very valuable. This means that there are a lot of poachers making a lot² of money from killing rhinos and then selling their horns for medicine.
4. What can be done to stop this?³ Immediate solutions are needed to stop the killing before the rhino becomes extinct. One such solution is called '**de-horning**'. Here the horn of the rhino is surgically removed and, as a result, making the animal useless to poachers. Another is the use of drones. These are now being used by wildlife park rangers to track and monitor the rhinos and the poachers. It is extremely important⁴ that we⁵ find ways to stop animals being killed and becoming extinct.

Tasks Match each paragraph, 1–4, with a topic from the list below:

- a. Solutions
- b. Extinction and the ecosystem
- c. Why rhinos are being poached
- d. Poaching
- e. Importance of technology for conservation

The pre-reading is grammatically well-written but it is not in a very academic style. Five phrases have been numbered. What is it about them (1–5) that is not very academic?

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

[Pre-reading, images]

Use the photos and the words in the box below to guess the answers to the following questions:

1. Why do you think criminals poach rhinos?

2. How do you think the future of the rhino and their environment is affected by poaching?

3. What solutions are being used?



Image 01



Image 02



Image 03



Image 04