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Congo conference to save great apes

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6 September, 2005

THE ARTICLE

Congo conference to save great apes

BNE: A week of talks opened on Monday in Kinshasa, Congo, to help save the world's great apes. Governments are meeting to create a global agreement aimed at protecting endangered apes across the world. The focus of the meetings is to save these precious primates from extinction. Urgent action is needed to ensure their survival. Teams from 23 nations from Africa, Indonesia and Malaysia are taking part in the discussions. These countries are home to the world's gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans.

Many zoologists think most of the great apes will be extinct within a generation. Numbers have reduced from millions in the 19th century to just 400,000 today. This number is sharply declining year by year. Logging, poaching and wars are putting the apes in great danger. Over half of the apes' natural habitat is in war-torn regions. Ian Redmond of the U.N.'s Great Apes Survival Project says there is a "shared determination to address the problems".

WARM-UPS

1. APE DANGER: You are now an ape. Decide if you are a gorilla, chimpanzee or orangutan. You have heard that all apes might disappear within 25 years because of the actions of humans. Talk to the other “apes” in the class about your daily life in the jungle and the possibility of extinction.

2. EXTINCTION: What would think if the following animals became extinct? What can we do to stop them from becoming extinct? Rank them in order or which animals you want to save most.

- Chimpanzees
- Tigers
- Red-necked Amazonian frogs
- Ostriches
- Cockroaches
- Ants
- Elephants
- Golden Eagles

3. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words are most interesting and which are most boring.

Great apes / talks / extinction / Congo / endangered species / survival / gorillas / chimpanzees / orangutans / zoologists / logging / poaching / optimism

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

4. CHIMPANZEE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with chimpanzees. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

5. SENTENCE STARTERS: In pairs / groups, agree on the endings to the following sentence starters. Talk about your finished sentences. Change partners and share and compare your sentences.

- a. Chimpanzees are _____.
- b. The Congo meeting will _____.
- c. Extinction of the great apes _____.
- d. Poachers should _____.
- e. The U.N. _____.
- f. Western governments _____.
- g. African governments _____.
- h. We _____.

6. QUICK DEBATE: Students A think the great apes will survive. Students B think the great apes have no chance of surviving. Change partners often.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. There will be a "great ape Olympics" for apes to race each other. | T / F |
| b. A meeting in Africa has been set up to save apes from extinction. | T / F |
| c. There is little chance the great apes will become extinct. | T / F |
| d. Brazil, India and China are home to the world's great apes. | T / F |
| e. Zoologists think the great apes will be extinct within a generation. | T / F |
| f. Ape numbers have fallen dramatically since the 19 th century. | T / F |
| g. Most of the world's apes live in war zones. | T / F |
| h. A U.N. spokesman determined to address the problems. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| a. opened | guarantee |
| b. global | threatened |
| c. endangered | will |
| d. primates | declined |
| e. ensure | started |
| f. within | environment |
| g. reduced | inside |
| h. danger | worldwide |
| i. habitat | apes |
| j. determination | peril |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. A week of | to ensure their survival |
| b. a global agreement aimed | the apes in great danger |
| c. save these precious | a generation |
| d. Urgent action is needed | primates from extinction |
| e. These countries are home | to address the problems |
| f. extinct within | to the world's gorillas |
| g. This number is | talks opened on Monday |
| h. wars are putting | in war-torn regions |
| i. the apes' natural habitat is | at protecting endangered apes |
| j. a shared determination | sharply declining |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words in the column on the right into the gaps in the text.

Congo conference to save great apes

BNE: A week of talks _____ on Monday in Kinshasa, Congo, to help _____ the world's great apes. Governments are meeting to create a global agreement _____ at protecting endangered apes across the world. The _____ of the meetings is to save these precious primates from _____. Urgent action is needed to _____ their survival. Teams from 23 nations from Africa, Indonesia and Malaysia are taking _____ in the discussions. These countries are _____ to the world's gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans.

Many _____ think most of the great apes will be extinct within a _____. Numbers have reduced from _____ in the 19th century to just 400,000 today. This number is _____ declining year by year. Logging, _____ and wars are putting the apes in great _____. Over half of the apes' natural _____ is in war-torn regions. Ian Redmond of the U.N.'s Great Apes Survival Project says there is a "shared determination to _____ the problems".

extinction

part

aimed

ensure

save

home

focus

opened

millions

danger

address

zoologists

poaching

generation

habitat

sharply

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'great' and 'ape'.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the gap fill. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. STUDENT "GREAT APES" SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about the great apes and their survival.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

6. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| • week | • zoologists |
| • global | • reduced |
| • across | • sharply |
| • focus | • danger |
| • urgent | • habitat |
| • home | • address |

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. What did you think when you first read this headline?
- b. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- c. What were your feelings after you read the article?
- d. Do you think the great apes will survive?
- e. Is it important that the great apes survive?
- f. Do you think the global agreement will work?
- g. Only African countries and Malaysia and Indonesia are attending the conference. Should there be more countries?
- h. Which is your favorite great ape?
- i. Would you like to do something to help the great apes?
- j. Do you think apes can be bred in zoos and then put into the wild?

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. Did you like reading this article?
- b. What do you think about what you read?
- c. Do you think we come from apes?
- d. What do you think of the declining numbers of apes?
- e. Who should stop loggers and poachers?
- f. What punishment should be given to loggers and poachers?
- g. Do you think war-torn regions in Africa will become peaceful enough for apes to survive?
- h. What do you think of the idea of making jungles in the USA and filling them with African animals?
- i. What endangered species might be next to become extinct?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What question would you like to ask about this topic?
- b. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- c. Was there a question you didn't like?
- d. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- e. What did you like talking about?
- f. Do you want to know how anyone else answered the questions?
- g. Which was the most difficult question?

SPEAKING

GORILLA INTERVIEW: In pairs / groups, write down questions you would like to ask gorillas about their lives and opinions. The following ideas may be useful:

- Jungle

- War

- Logging

- Poaching

- Extinction

- Declining numbers

- Lost friends

- The Kinshasa meeting

- Man

- The future

Take turns in role playing the interviewer and gorilla. Change partners and discuss what you heard from previous partners.

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Congo conference to save great apes

BNE: A week of talks _____ on Monday in Kinshasa, Congo, to help save the world's great apes. Governments are meeting to _____ a global agreement aimed at protecting endangered apes _____ the world. The focus of the meetings is to save these _____ primates from extinction. Urgent action is needed to _____ their survival. Teams from 23 nations from Africa, Indonesia and Malaysia are taking _____ in the discussions. These countries are _____ to the world's gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans.

Many zoologists think most of the great apes will be _____ within a generation. Numbers have _____ from millions in the 19th century to just 400,000 today. This number is _____ declining year by year. Logging, poaching and wars are putting the apes in _____ danger. Over half of the apes' natural _____ is in war-torn regions. Ian Redmond of the U.N.'s Great Apes Survival Project says there is a "_____ determination to _____ the problems".

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information on the great apes. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson.

3. POSTER: Make a poster about chimpanzees, gorillas or orangutans. Explain their habitat, society structure and the dangers they face. Show your posters to your classmates in your next lesson. Did you all find out about similar things?

4. DIARY / JOURNAL: You are a gorilla in the Congo jungle. Write the diary / journal entry for one day in your life. Write about the threats you face from man. Read what you wrote to your classmates in your next lesson. Did you all write about similar things?

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. T c. F d. F e. T f. T g. T h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| a. opened | started |
| b. global | worldwide |
| c. endangered | threatened |
| d. primates | apes |
| e. ensure | guarantee |
| f. within | inside |
| g. reduced | declined |
| h. danger | peril |
| i. habitat | environment |
| j. determination | will |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. A week of | talks opened on Monday |
| b. a global agreement aimed | at protecting endangered apes |
| c. save these precious | primates from extinction |
| d. Urgent action is needed | to address the problems |
| e. These countries are home | to the world's gorillas |
| f. extinct within | a generation |
| g. This number is | sharply declining |
| h. wars are putting | the apes in great danger |
| i. the apes' natural habitat is | in war-torn regions |
| j. a shared determination | to ensure their survival |

GAP FILL:

Congo conference to save great apes

BNE: A week of talks **opened** on Monday in Kinshasa, Congo, to help **save** the world's great apes. Governments are meeting to create a global agreement **aimed** at protecting endangered apes across the world. The **focus** of the meetings is to save these precious primates from **extinction**. Urgent action is needed to **ensure** their survival. Teams from 23 nations from Africa, Indonesia and Malaysia are taking **part** in the discussions. These countries are **home** to the world's gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans.

Many **zoologists** think most of the great apes will be extinct within a **generation**. Numbers have reduced from **millions** in the 19th century to just 400,000 today. This number is **sharply** declining year by year. Logging, **poaching** and wars are putting the apes in great **danger**. Over half of the apes' natural **habitat** is in war-torn regions. Ian Redmond of the U.N.'s Great Apes Survival Project says there is a "shared determination to **address** the problems".