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## **Level 5**

### **Snow leopard under threat from climate change**

**26th October, 2015**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1510/151026-snow-leopard-5.html>

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26–page Level 6 (harder).

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1510/151026-snow-leopard-5.html>

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has warned that climate change is threatening the snow leopard in the Himalayas. It says rising temperatures are reducing the natural habitat of the big cat to the point where snow leopards could become extinct. The charity says that up to a third of the areas where the leopards live could become uninhabitable. The natural environment the animals need to survive is disappearing. The WWF said: "The Himalayas region will face a major crisis if we choose to ignore climate change...We risk losing...species such as the snow leopard."

It isn't just climate change that is a threat to the snow leopard. Human activity is also adding to the dangers the animals face. Snow leopards are hunted for their fur and body parts. More poachers are joining this lucrative, illegal trade. Farmers are also killing the leopards to protect their livestock. The natural prey of the snow leopards is decreasing, so the animals are going into areas inhabited by humans and killing farm animals. The result is the farmers shoot the leopards. The WWF released its report on Friday, which was the first ever International Snow Leopard Day.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-34616494>  
<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/oct/23/snow-leopards-at-risk-himalayas-face-climate-change-crisis>  
<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/climate-change-could-push-snow-leopards-closer-to-extinction/>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1510/151026-snow-leopard-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. climate change is threatening the | a. a major crisis           |
| 2. rising                            | b. become extinct           |
| 3. reducing the natural habitat      | c. ignore climate change    |
| 4. snow leopards could               | d. of the big cat           |
| 5. the animals need to               | e. such as the snow leopard |
| 6. The Himalayas region will face    | f. snow leopard             |
| 7. if we choose to                   | g. survive                  |
| 8. We risk losing...species          | h. temperatures             |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                      |                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. It isn't just climate change      | a. of the snow leopards    |
| 2. leopards are hunted for their fur | b. its report on Friday    |
| 3. joining this lucrative,           | c. and body parts          |
| 4. killing the leopards to           | d. by humans               |
| 5. The natural prey                  | e. that is a threat        |
| 6. areas inhabited                   | f. the leopards            |
| 7. the farmers shoot                 | g. illegal trade           |
| 8. The WWF released                  | h. protect their livestock |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1510/151026-snow-leopard-5.html>

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) (1) \_\_\_\_\_ climate change is threatening the snow leopard in the Himalayas. It says rising temperatures (2) \_\_\_\_\_ natural habitat of the big cat (3) \_\_\_\_\_ snow leopards could become extinct. The charity says that (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the areas where the leopards live could become uninhabitable. The natural environment (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to survive is disappearing. The WWF said: "The Himalayas region will face a major crisis if we (6) \_\_\_\_\_ climate change...We risk losing...species such as the snow leopard."

It isn't just climate change that (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the snow leopard. Human activity (8) \_\_\_\_\_ to the dangers the animals face. Snow leopards are hunted (9) \_\_\_\_\_ body parts. More poachers are joining this lucrative, illegal trade. Farmers are also killing the leopards (10) \_\_\_\_\_ livestock. The natural prey of the snow leopards is decreasing, so the animals (11) \_\_\_\_\_ areas inhabited by humans and killing farm animals. (12) \_\_\_\_\_ farmers shoot the leopards. The WWF released its report on Friday, which was the first ever International Snow Leopard Day.

# SNOW LEOPARDS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1510/151026-snow-leopard-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about snow leopards in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

*Snow leopard under threat from climate change – 26th October, 2015*  
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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

# FREE WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1510/151026-snow-leopard-5.html>

Write about **snow leopards** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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