

Animal puppets walk 20,000 km for climate action

1st May 2025



A 20,000-km walk from central Africa to the Arctic Circle has started in Congo. The epic trek is to raise awareness of the climate crisis. The journey will take over four months. It is called The Herds. A herd is a large group of animals. The hundreds of

creatures in this project are life-sized puppets. They include lions, zebras, wildebeest, monkeys, giraffes and baboons. More than 2,000 people will be trained to make more puppets, all from recyclable materials. The Herds organizers said the walk symbolizes the flight of animals from climate disaster. A spokesperson said: "The Herds is public art and climate action on an unprecedented scale. It's an ambitious coming together of culture and climate."

The animal puppets from The Herds will visit more than 20 cities across the continents of Africa and Europe, including Casablanca, Madrid, Paris, London, and Stockholm. The final event will be inside the Arctic Circle in August. Each city will host street performances that focus on how we can help Earth. Alister Scott of the Global Rewilding Alliance said: "The Herds is going to reach millions of people and bring the fierce, exciting beauty of nature right onto the streets and into people's lives." The UK Peatland Programme said: "The Herds is a stunning representation of the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, and the journey we must all make towards a brighter future."

Sources: theherds.org / theguardian.com / euronews.com

Writing

We must all change our lives to create a brighter future. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

20,000-km walk / central Africa / Arctic Circle / climate crisis / puppets / ambitious / herd / continents / street performances / rewilding / beauty / nature / biodiversity

True / False

- 1) The 20,000-km walk started in Rwanda. T / F
- 2) The walk will take six months. T / F
- 3) The article says there are more than 2,000 puppets in the walk. T / F
- 4) A spokesperson said The Herds was an ambitious project. T / F
- 5) The Herds will cross three continents. T / F
- 6) Twenty cities along the walk's route will have street performances. T / F
- 7) An environmentalist said the walk will reach a billion people. T / F
- 8) An environmentalist said the walk should lead to a brighter future. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. epic | a. last |
| 2. journey | b. very long |
| 3. creatures | c. challenging |
| 4. unprecedented | d. disaster |
| 5. ambitious | e. appeal |
| 6. visit | f. animals |
| 7. final | g. more hopeful |
| 8. beauty | h. unusual |
| 9. crisis | i. spend time in |
| 10. brighter | j. trip |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Which of the cities would you like to visit?
- c) What do you think the street performances will be like?
- d) How important are rewilding projects?
- e) What do you think of nature?
- f) How can we reverse biodiversity loss?
- g) How bright do you think the future is?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the organizers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The epic | a. from climate disaster |
| 2. The journey will | b. future |
| 3. A herd is | c. take over four months |
| 4. recyclable | d. inside the Arctic Circle |
| 5. the flight of animals | e. materials |
| 6. 20 cities across the continents | f. a large group of animals |
| 7. The final event will be | g. and biodiversity loss |
| 8. The Herds is going to reach | h. trek is to raise awareness |
| 9. the twin crises of climate change | i. millions of people |
| 10. a brighter | j. of Africa and Europe |

Discussion – Student B

- What is the climate crisis?
- How do you feel about the climate crisis?
- How interested are you in following The Herds?
- Why is The Herds finishing in the Arctic Circle?
- What can we do to help animals in danger?
- What animals are most at risk from climate change?
- Has climate change changed your life?
- What advice do you have for the organizers of The Herds?

Spelling

- A 20,000-km walk from lctrane Africa
- raise aeersrsnwa of the climate crisis
- The yojuner will take over four months
- hundreds of eestrcaru in this project
- monkeys, ffisgera and baboons
- all from ecyrlbacl materials
- the nnttneois of Africa and Europe
- street rpefomracnes
- reach lmnlois of people
- the fierce, exciting bayeut of nature
- ibvdyroiesti loss
- towards a btrrhgie future

Answers – Synonym Match

1. b	2. j	3. f	4. h	5. c
6. i	7. a	8. e	9. d	10. g

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions. (Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	What is The Herds to raise awareness of?
2.	What is a herd?
3.	How big are the animal puppets?
4.	What are the puppets made from?
5.	What kind of art is The Herds?
6.	How many continents will The Herds cross?
7.	Where will the final event of The Herds be?
8.	What will each city host?
9.	How many people will The Herds reach?
10.	What did an environmentalist say we must make a journey towards?

Speaking – Walks

Rank these with your partner. Put the best walks at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Across the Sahara Desert | • Around Rome |
| • Through the Amazon | • Across the USA |
| • Along the River Thames | • In the Himalayas |
| • Along the Great Wall of China | • Around Mt Fuji |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	F	4	T	5	F	6	T	7	F	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.