

Zoos

WORKSHEET A

Bill

I think zoos are really important. For a start they get young kids interested in animals, which means those kids are more likely to grow up with an interest in helping to preserve wild animals and the natural world in general. And zoos themselves sometimes play a direct role in preserving endangered species – there are some species that might have become extinct by now if they hadn't been able to breed in captivity.

I remember going to a couple of zoos where it seemed some animals were confined in spaces that were too small, but you rarely see that these days. I think most animals in zoos have surroundings that recreate their natural habitat quite well.

Ryan

I think it's wrong for wild animals to be kept in cages for people's entertainment. And let's face it, that's all zoos are – entertainment. People go on about the so-called 'educational value' of zoos, but you learn more about animals from wildlife documentaries on the TV than you do from looking at them in the artificial environment of a cage. And I've never really understood the idea that if people learn something from visiting a zoo, it somehow benefits the species of animal they've seen there. How does that work? Of all the people who've ever seen a tiger in a zoo, how many have been inspired to spend any time or money trying to help save wild tigers from extinction? Virtually none, I imagine. And as for the argument that breeding endangered species in zoos ensures they won't become extinct, wouldn't it be better to protect those animals by preserving their natural habitats, for example by doing something about deforestation?

Amy

There are some animals I don't like seeing in cages, like big cats, wolves and big monkeys. Whenever I've seen them in zoos I've always thought they looked a bit depressed. I guess it's not natural for them to be in a confined space. The same goes for dolphins and killer whales in marine parks – they must feel like they're swimming around in a puddle.

Then again, I guess lots of animals born in captivity wouldn't have the skills to survive in the wild, or would be in danger from hunters. At least in captivity they're safe, and always have enough food.

Our local zoo mostly has smaller animals, and you can see that the people who work there do their best to take good care of them. Our seven-year-old son wants to go almost every week. The last time we took him, he said on the way home that he wants to be a vet when he grows up.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), or if the text doesn't say (D).

1. Ryan thinks zoos have less educational value than wildlife documentaries on TV.
2. Bill thinks that these days animals in zoos usually seem to have enough space.
3. There are no big cats at Amy's local zoo.
4. Ryan has seen a tiger in a zoo.
5. Some of the big monkeys Amy has seen in zoos looked very happy.
6. Amy imagines that killer whales in marine parks don't have enough space.
7. Bill believes zoos can make people become interested in animals.
8. Amy thinks it would be better if all the animals in zoos lived in the wild.

Exercise 2

Answer the questions below.

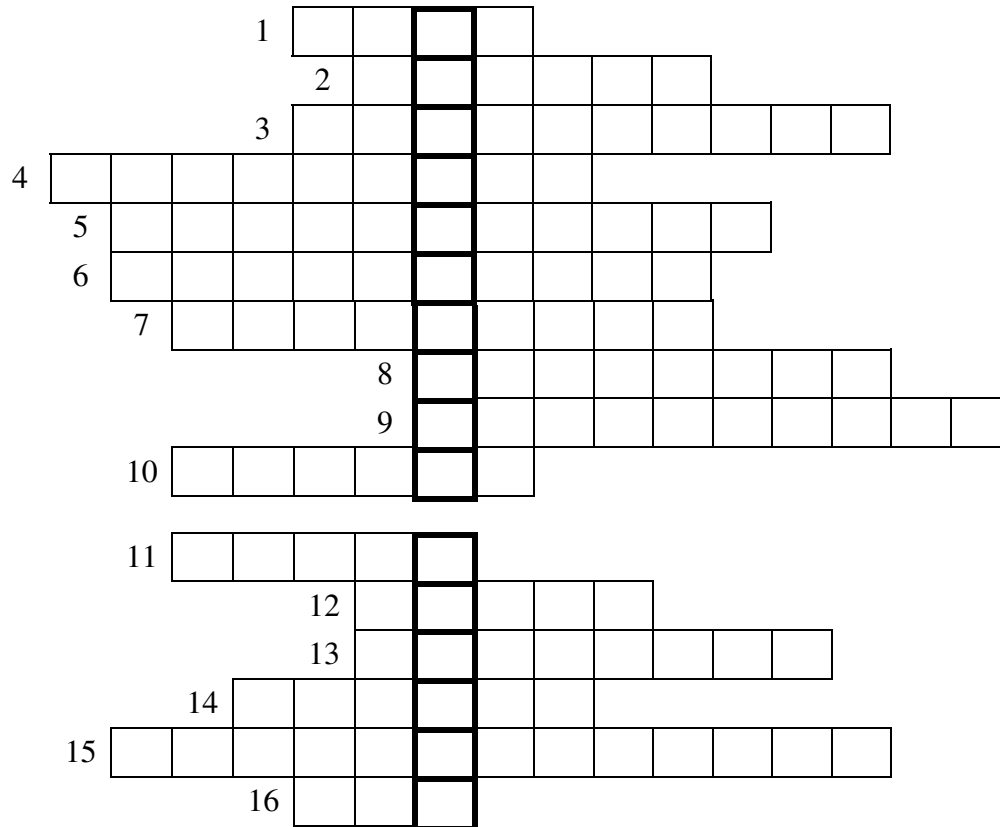
1. What animals does Amy imagine are unhappy in captivity?
2. Bill mentions a direct and an indirect way in which zoos help preserve wild animals – what are they?
3. What does Ryan think would be a better way of protecting endangered species than breeding them in captivity?
4. Amy says something about her own family that seems to support something Bill says – what is it?
5. What example does Ryan use in expressing doubt about the idea that if people learn something from visiting a zoo, it somehow benefits the species of animal they've seen there?
6. In what way does Bill think zoos have improved?
7. What does Amy suggest are the advantages of captivity for some animals?
8. What does Ryan think is the only purpose of zoos?

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 3

Complete the crossword below. If all the words are correct, the two words that 'zoo' is short for will read from top to bottom.



1. Bill thinks the _____ of the space in which animals are confined in zoos is important.
2. Amy doesn't like seeing _____ in captivity.
3. Bill and Amy both say zoos play a useful role by _____ some animals.
4. Ryan imagines that _____ no one has ever been inspired to help save wild tigers from extinction after seeing a tiger in a zoo.
5. Ryan doesn't think that a cage is a natural _____ for an animal.
6. Bill says zoos can help preserve _____ species of animal.
7. Ryan thinks animals should live in the wild, not in _____.
8. Amy gives some examples of large animals that she doesn't think should live in the _____ environment of a zoo or marine park.
9. Ryan thinks that zoos are an _____ environment for animals.
10. Amy thinks animals born in zoos probably lack some of the _____ wild animals have.
11. Bill doesn't think it's necessarily _____ for animals to be kept in zoos.
12. Amy thinks big cats don't seem to be happy in _____.
13. Bill says that _____ in captivity has saved some species from extinction.
14. Amy imagines that the confined space of a marine park feels like a _____ for dolphins and killer whales.
15. Ryan thinks that _____ is endangering some wild animals' natural habitats.
16. Amy's _____ loves going to the zoo.