

Reading Texts – Endangered Animals

Text 1

LEOPARD

Leopards are graceful and powerful big cats closely related to lions, tigers, and jaguars. The leopard is so strong and comfortable in trees that it often pulls what it kills up into the trees. Leopards can also hunt from trees, where their spotted coats look like leaves. They hunt at night and go after other animals like antelope, deer, and pigs, hiding and walking slowly and silently in tall grass. When human settlements are present, leopards often attack dogs and, occasionally, people.

Leopards are strong swimmers and happy in water, where they sometimes eat fish or crabs. They live in Africa, Asia, India and China.

Text 2

Blue Whale

POPULATION 10,000-25,000 individuals
SCIENTIFIC NAME *Balaenoptera musculus*
WEIGHT Close to 200 tons
LENGTH 80-100 feet
HABITATS Oceans

The blue whale is the largest animal on the planet, weighing as much as 200 tons (approximately 33 elephants). The blue whale has a heart the size of a Volkswagen Beetle. Its stomach can hold one ton of krill and it needs to eat about four tons of krill each day. They are the loudest animals on Earth and are even louder than a jet engine. Their calls reach 188 decibels, while a jet reaches 140 decibels. Their low frequency whistle can be heard for hundreds of miles and is probably used to attract other blue whales.

PLACES Southern Chile, Gulf of California, Coral Triangle
HABITATS Ocean Habitat

Text 3

GIANT PANDAS

The giant panda has a huge appetite for bamboo. Pandas will sometimes eat birds or rodents as well.

Wild pandas live only in remote, mountainous regions in central China. These high bamboo forests are cool and wet—just as pandas like it. Giant pandas like to live alone. They have a highly developed sense of smell.

There are only about 1,000 giant pandas left in the wild. Perhaps 100 pandas live in zoos, where they are always among the most popular attractions. Much of what we know about pandas comes from the study of these zoo animals, because there are so few of their wild cousins.

Text 4

ELEPHANTS

<i>Habitat loss</i>	<i>Areas where they live will become hotter and drier. Elephants will not be able to find enough food and this will threaten the survival of the baby calves.</i>
<i>Human contact</i>	<i>Humans are taking over elephant habitats. Poaching for ivory is becoming more common.</i>
<i>Behaviour</i>	<i>Form deep family bonds. They live in groups, (herds), led by the oldest and largest female. Extremely intelligent. Long memories. Show signs of joy, anger and sadness.</i>
<i>New discovery</i>	<i>Elephants can communicate in messages that travel over the ground for long distances. Other elephants get the messages through their feet and trunks.</i>

Task 2 Language for the e-mail

Look at the incomplete phrases/ sentences below. Complete them with words/ phrases from the box.

to support - not in favour of - prefer
I'd rather we - due to the fact that - need
because - support - rare
reason - believe
the largest - should - wouldn't

1. I'd _____ to save elephants.
2. The best animal _____ is the leopard.
3. _____ saved the blue whale.
4. The animal I _____ we _____ support is the giant panda.
5. This is _____ it is _____ animal on earth.
6. My _____ is that pandas are _____.
7. This is _____ elephants are very special animals.
8. I _____ support a charity for leopards because they can attack humans.
9. I am _____ supporting a charity for elephants because humans may _____ their habitat to live in.

Task 3

Your school/ work-place has decided to support a Charity for one of the animals you have read about. Write an email in the box below.

Write to the Charity Committee saying which animal you want to support and why. Write about why you do not want to support the other animals. Use the sentences you wrote before to help you with your email.

Write between 130-150 words

NEW MESSAGE

To : Charity Committee

From:

Subject: Charity Choice

Dear Charity Committee,

With best wishes,
