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ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE DETECTIVES

Resource for primary schools (8 to 11 year olds)

INTRODUCTION

Children have a natural curiosity towards animals and nature, and the topic of wildlife trade is bound to capture their interest. **WWF's Living Planet Report 2018** shows that populations of fish, birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles have declined on average by 60% in less than fifty years (between 1970 and 2014.) The main causes are loss of habitats and over-exploitation of species, including the illegal hunting of animals.

The illegal trade in endangered plants and animals – whether elephant ivory, rhino horn or animals captured as exotic pets – is a growing threat pushing thousands of species to the brink of extinction. Although many countries have strict laws to protect endangered wildlife from commercial trade, in some places it is still legal and in others, the laws are not well enforced.

PRODUCED IN
PARTNERSHIP
WITH



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

“WWF’s Living Planet Report 2018 shows that populations of fish, birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles have declined on average by 60 per cent over the last 50 years.”

This illegal trade has devastating effects not only on plants, animals and ecosystems across the world, but also on local communities. It fuels corruption, undermines economic development and brings instability into some of the world’s poorest countries.

The aim of this resource is to encourage 8 to 11 year olds to find out more about the threats to wildlife from illegal trade and to explore some of the solutions to help fight it – from the use of sniffer dogs to the development of new technologies. Simple activities are provided to help pupils develop a better understanding of the issues, to formulate their own ideas and opinions, and to reflect on how their own actions can help to protect the natural world. The activities can be delivered through different subject areas or as part of a themed week on sustainability.



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What is the illegal wildlife trade?

Illegal wildlife trade means the selling or exchange of wild plants and animals that are at risk and protected by law. It involves live plants and animals (e.g. rare orchids or tropical birds) or products derived from them (e.g. jewellery, medicine, food or clothing).

On average, more than 100,000 pangolins, 20,000 elephants, 1,000 rhinos and 100 tigers are killed each year due to the illegal wildlife trade.



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Activities

ACTIVITY 3

Holiday souvenirs

Taking on the role of wildlife detectives, pupils inspect a range of holiday souvenirs and produce a leaflet or an article to raise awareness of the negative impact of buying wildlife trade products.

ACTIVITY 1

1

What is the illegal wildlife trade?

An interactive quiz to explore why some plant and animal species are at risk from the illegal wildlife trade and where the hotspots are across the world.

ACTIVITY 4

4

Breaking the chain

A closer look at the threats to African elephants from the ivory trade and creation of a cartoon strip to explore different perspectives and possible solutions.

ACTIVITY 2

2

What's the problem?

An activity using photos to encourage pupils to raise questions and explore the connections between the environmental, social, political and economic aspects of the illegal trafficking of wildlife.

ACTIVITY 5

5

Take action for your world

Pupils create powerful infographics or posters to illustrate what they have learned about the impact of the illegal wildlife trade and to raise awareness in the school community.



© Edward Parker / WWF



What is the illegal wildlife trade?

Overview

Through an interactive quiz based on facts, photographs and short films, pupils explore what illegal wildlife trade means and why it poses a serious threat to many endangered animal and plant species across the world.

Objectives

- To learn what illegal wildlife trade means and why some species are at risk of extinction
- To explore where wildlife is illegally taken for trade

What you need

- **‘Illegal wildlife trade’ world map**
- **What is the illegal wildlife trade? quiz and answers**
- Resource sheet: ‘Illegal wildlife trade quiz’ (one per team)
- Resource sheet: ‘Illegal wildlife trade quiz answers’
- Resource sheet: ‘Wildlife at risk’



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What to do

- Using the world map, discuss what pupils already know about the illegal wildlife trade. What does trade mean? Why do people trade endangered animals and plants? Which species are most threatened? Where in the world are wild animals and plants taken for trade?
- Divide the class into teams and give each team a copy of the quiz. Run through the questions on the PowerPoint, giving them time to answer on their quiz sheet.
- Then go through the questions with the whole class to check their answers (see answer sheet below).
- Using the template on the resource sheet ‘Wildlife at risk’, pupils can research one of the animals or plants on the map and create a profile for this species as a PowerPoint slide or factsheet. These could be displayed around the school to raise awareness and get people talking about illegal wildlife trade.

Resource sheet: Illegal wildlife trade quiz

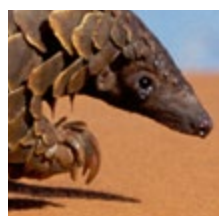
1. Watch the film and name five animals affected by illegal trade.

2. How many African elephants are killed by poachers on average every day?

- 10 18 35 55



© Martin Harvey / WWF



3. This animal is the most traded wild mammal in the world. Can you guess what it is?

- Crocodile Python
 Pangolin Anteater

© Photoshot License Ltd / Alamy Stock Photo

4. More African elephants are being killed than are being born.

- True False

5. How many tigers are left in the wild?

- Around 500 Around 3,900
 Around 9,500 Around 40,000



6. Which product is illegal to buy as a holiday souvenir? You can tick more than one product.



© WWF / James Moran

Ivory jewellery



© James Moran / WWF-US

Straw baskets



© Ola Jennersten / WWF-Sweden

Tiger skin



© Martin Harvey / WWF

Exotic pet



© WWF-Malaysia / Mazidi Abd Ghani

Local craft

7. What animals are trained to detect wildlife products such as ivory and rhino horn in airports?

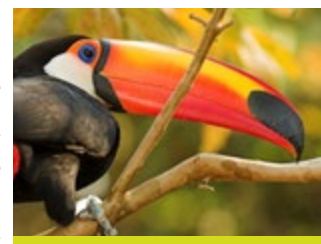
- Cats Dogs Parrots Snakes

8. Which of these animals is captured to make traditional medicine?



© naturepl.com / Andy Rouse / WWF

Panda



© R. Scotti, A. Cambone / Homo Amibiens / WWF

Toucan



© Martin Harvey / WWF

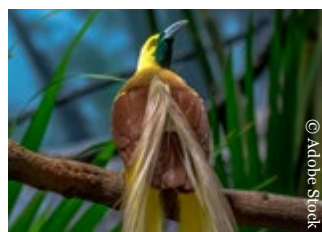
Giraffe



© Adam Oswell / WWF

Tiger

9. Which of these animals is captured for its scent gland to make perfume and traditional medicine?



© Adobe Stock

Bird of paradise



© Grigori Mazmanyan / WWF

Musk deer



© Martin Harvey / WWF

Python



© Anthony B. Rath / WWF

Skunk

10. How many animal species have been found to be in illegal wildlife trade across the world?

- Around 25 Around 700
 Around 2,400 Around 7,000

Resource sheet: Illegal wildlife trade quiz answers

1. Watch the film and name five animals affected by illegal trade.

POSSIBLE ANSWERS: Elephant, tiger, rhino, jaguar, snow leopard, pangolin, marine turtle, macaw, orangutan, shark

2. How many African elephants are killed by poachers on average every day?

ANSWER: 55

FACT: Around 20,000 African elephants are being killed every year for their ivory – that's around 55 every day!

3. This animal is the most traded wild animal in the world. Can you guess what it is?

ANSWER: Pangolin

FACT: On average one pangolin is snatched from the wild every five minutes. Pangolins are trafficked primarily to China and Vietnam where their meat is considered a delicacy and their scales used in traditional medicine.

4. More African elephants are being killed than are being born.

ANSWER: True

FACT: Around 90% of Africa's elephants have been killed in the last century.

5. How many tigers are left in the wild?

ANSWER: Around 3,900

FACT: Wild tiger numbers dropped by more than 95% during the 20th century because of the illegal wildlife trade and loss of habitats.

6. Which product is illegal to buy as a holiday souvenir? You can tick more than one product.

ANSWERS: Ivory jewellery, tiger skin, and exotic pet

7. What animals are trained to detect wildlife products such as ivory and rhino horn in airports?

ANSWER: Dogs

8. Which of these animals is captured to make traditional medicine?

ANSWER: Tiger

FACT: Tigers are killed for their skins, and for their bones which are used in traditional medicine.

9. Which of these animals is captured for its scent gland to make perfume and traditional medicine?

ANSWER: Musk deer

FACT: Musk is one of the most valuable natural products in the animal kingdom and can be worth three times more than its weight in gold.

10. How many animal species have been found to be in illegal wildlife trade across the world?

ANSWER: Around 7,000

Resource sheet: Wildlife at risk

Research one animal or plant threatened by the illegal wildlife trade and create a factsheet for your species.

Name of your plant or animal

Where are these found in the world?



Why are they traded illegally?

African elephants

© naturepl.com / Anup Shah / WWF



Why are they traded illegally?
African elephants are being killed for their ivory to make ornaments and jewellery.

Conservation status (IUCN)
Vulnerable



Where are they found?

Three reasons we should care:

- Elephants create clearings in wooded areas, which allow new plants to grow and other species to flourish.
- They disperse plant seeds.
- We have a responsibility to care for wildlife.

Three reasons why we should care:

When you have completed your factsheet **you could create a poster or a slide.**



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What's the problem?

Overview

Through the use of photographs, pupils are encouraged to raise questions and make connections between the environmental, social, political and economic aspects of the illegal wildlife trade.

Objectives

- To develop an understanding of why there is an illegal trade in wildlife and how it impacts on animals, people and the environment
- To develop critical thinking and enquiry skills through the use of photographs

What you need

- Resource sheet: 'Illegal wildlife trade photo bank'
- Resource sheet: 'Development compass rose'

What to do

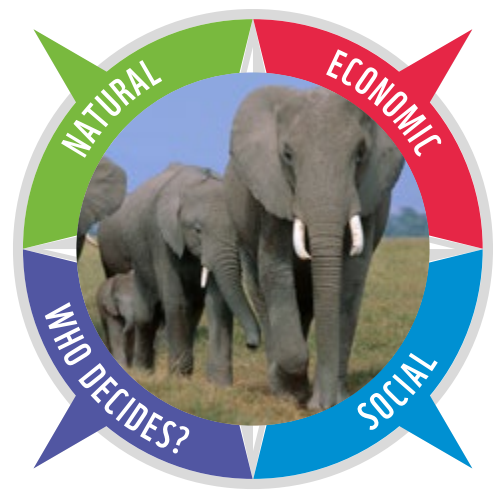
- The development compass rose is a useful tool to help pupils identify the issues, ask questions about the world around them and make connections. Working in pairs, pupils select an image from the resource sheet 'Illegal wildlife trade photo bank' (e.g. herd of elephants, ivory objects, a ranger at work, sniffer dog, ship and containers, and pangolin). Using the resource sheet 'Development compass rose', they identify relevant questions about the image – one or two questions for each point of the compass.
- Share pupils' questions and ideas with the whole class and widen the discussion. Encourage them to make connections between the environmental, social,

political and economic aspects of the illegal trade in wildlife. Why do people trade wildlife (e.g. money, use in traditional medicine, food as a delicacy, exotic pets etc.)? How do our choices as consumers affect wild animals and plants?

- The questions and ideas generated by the class might be an interesting starting point for further enquiry on wildlife and conservation.

NATURAL
Where are elephants found in the world?
What do elephants need to survive? What do they eat?

ECONOMIC
Why are elephants hunted for their tusks?
Why do people want to buy things made from ivory?



WHO DECIDES?
Who makes decisions to help protect elephants?
How can we stop people from buying ivory products?

SOCIAL
How can elephants be dangerous to people?
Why do people kill elephants?

Resource sheet: Illegal wildlife trade photo bank



Resource sheet: Illegal wildlife trade photo bank



Resource sheet: Illegal wildlife trade photo bank



Resource sheet: Development compass rose

NATURAL

Questions about energy, air, water, soil, living things and their environment

ECONOMIC

Questions about money, buying and selling, jobs and producing things



WHO DECIDES?

Questions about who makes decisions, what choices there are, who benefits and who loses out

SOCIAL

Questions about people, their relationships, culture, traditions and the way they live

Adapted from Tide~ global learning



© WWF / James Morgan



Holiday souvenirs

Overview

Taking on the role of wildlife detectives, pupils inspect a range of holiday souvenirs and produce a leaflet or an article to raise awareness of the negative impact of buying wildlife products.

Objectives

- To learn more about why animals are captured for trade
- To raise awareness of how our choices as consumers can have a negative impact on wildlife and the environment
- To explore ways to tackle the illegal wildlife trade

What you need

- WWF film ‘Sniffer dogs’
- Resource sheet: ‘Meet Diva, the dog detective’
- Resource sheet: ‘Holiday souvenirs’
- ‘Holiday souvenirs answer sheet’

What to do

- Using the WWF short film, introduce the important role of sniffer dogs in detecting wildlife products such as ivory and rhino horn. Or, in pairs, pupils can use the resource sheet ‘Meet Diva, the dog detective’ and answer the question ‘How does Diva help fight the illegal wildlife trade?’
- Invite pupils to take on the role of wildlife detectives and identify illegal wildlife products from a range of holiday souvenirs shown on photocards on the resource sheet ‘Holiday souvenirs’. Which products should they avoid buying and why? (see ‘Holiday souvenirs answer sheet’).
- Hold a class discussion around these objects. What would happen if the demand for these products stopped? How can our choices as consumers affect wildlife?
- In pairs, pupils can produce a tourist leaflet or an article for an in-flight magazine, travel agent or the travel section of a newspaper to inform travellers why they should avoid buying illegal wildlife products. Other ideas might be to design a complimentary bookmark to inform passengers or a logo to certify that products are not connected with the illegal wildlife trade.



© Michel Gunther / WWF



© WWF / James Morgan

Resource sheet: Meet Diva, the dog detective

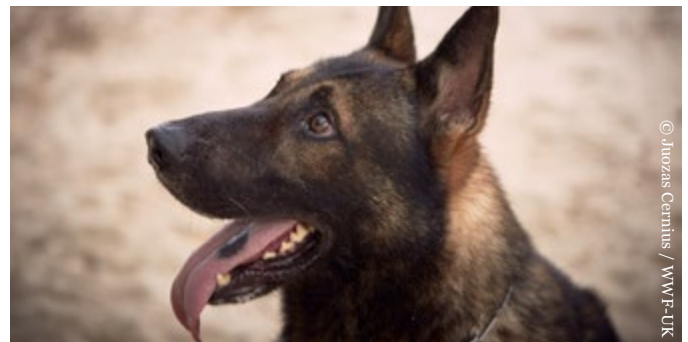


This is Diva and she plays a vital role in helping to stop the illegal wildlife trade through one of the world's busiest ports, Mombasa in Kenya.

© Juozas Cernius / WWF-UK



© Juozas Cernius / WWF-UK



© Juozas Cernius / WWF-UK

The port of Mombasa is a hot and busy place where thousands of containers are handled every day. It is also a major hub for the transport of illegal wildlife parts, such as ivory and rhino horn. These items are transported from Africa to consumer markets mostly in Asia.

With their incredible sense of smell, dogs can sniff out even the tiniest amount of ivory in a large container. But inspecting containers can take days and is often carried out in very hot conditions.

Dogs like Diva are specially trained to detect live animals and wildlife products, despite smugglers' efforts to mask scents. They are often used in airports, shipping ports and national parks to search cargo, luggage, packaging, vehicles or areas.



© Juozas Cernius / WWF-UK

A new method, quicker and easier for both dogs and their handlers, is being trialled in Mombasa. How does it work? Air is sucked out of unopened containers and passed onto sniffer pads. The pads are presented to the dogs and if they detect anything suspicious, they give a signal. This method allows officers to identify the containers that need to be opened and searched. Dogs like Diva can help to end the trafficking of wildlife.

This innovative technique was trialled by WWF, TRAFFIC and Kenya Wildlife Service. The sniffer dogs in Mombasa port are supported by the African Wildlife Foundation.

Resource sheet: Holiday souvenirs



Traditional medicine containing tiger bones and rhino horn



Local pottery



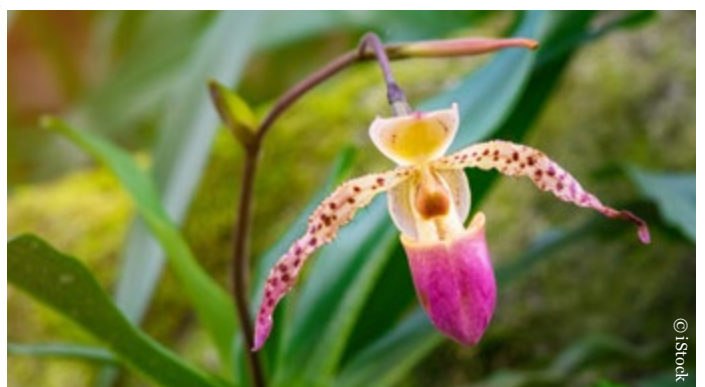
Bracelet



Clothing made from reptile skin



Woolen jumper



Rare wild orchid



Shawl made from the fur of the endangered Tibetan antelope



Straw basket

Resource sheet: Holiday souvenirs



Ivory ornament



Coral jewellery



Live reptile



Bag made from recycled plastic



Tortoiseshell jewellery



Musical instrument made from sustainable wood

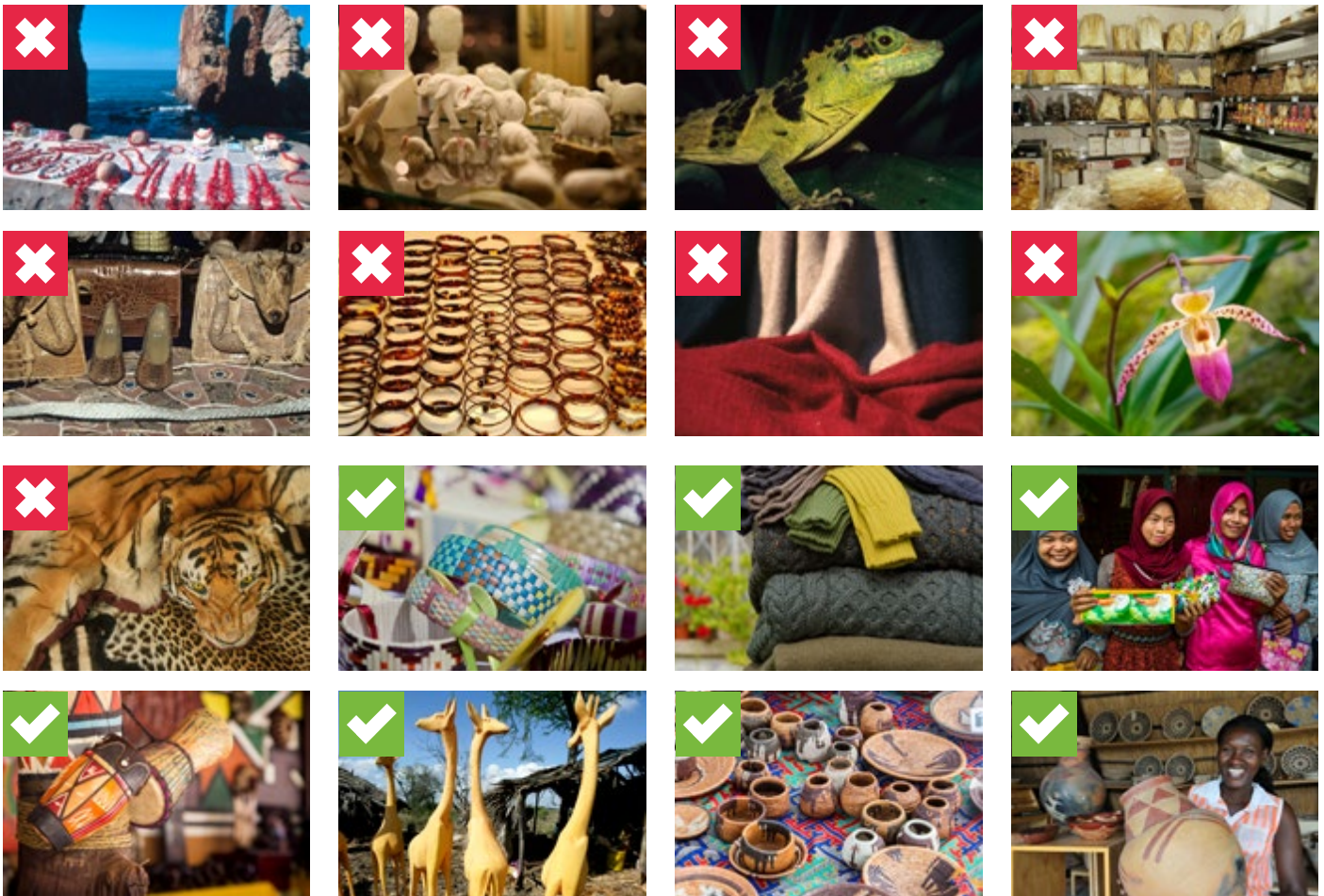


Giraffe carved from sustainable wood

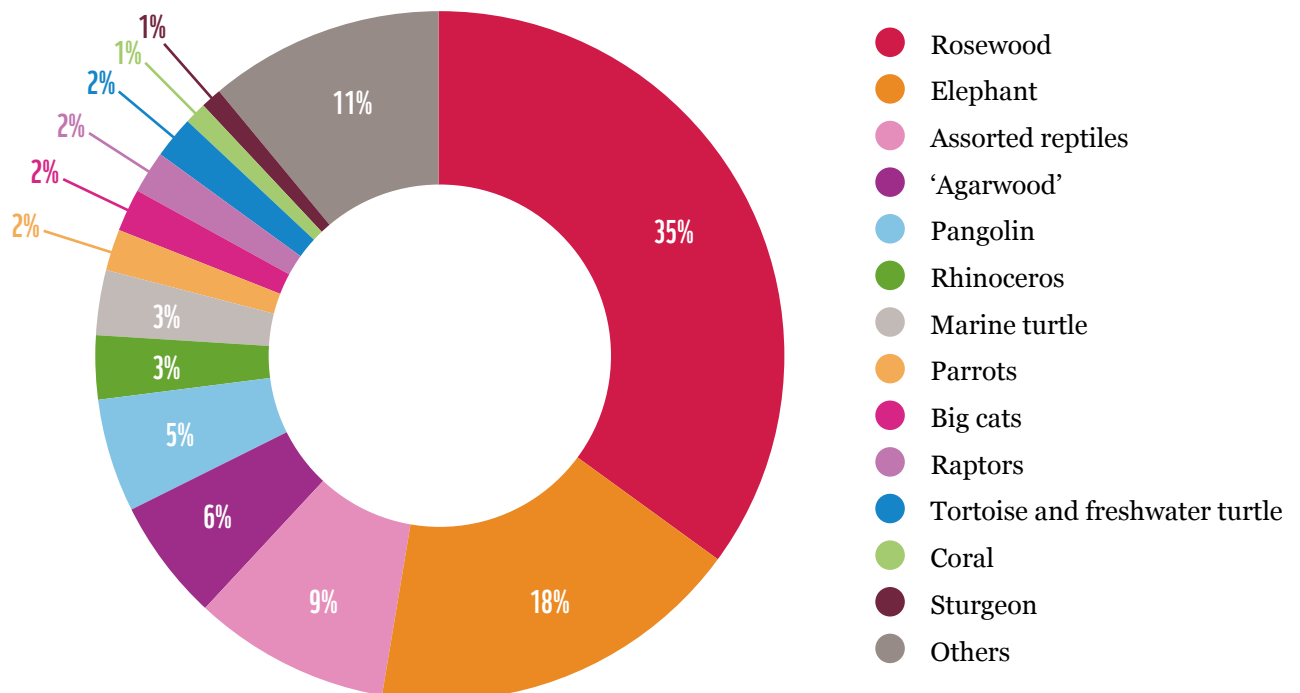


Tiger skin

Holiday souvenirs answer sheet



Share of type of wildlife among total seizures 2005 – 2014.



Source: UNDOC. 2016 World wildlife crime report. Trafficking in protected species.

See: https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/wildlife/World_Wildlife_Crime_Report_2016_final.pdf



Around 20,000 African elephants are poached each year for their tusks, with most ivory smuggled to Asia, despite an international trade ban. On average, that's 55 African elephants killed every day.

ACTIVITY

4

Breaking the chain

Overview

Pupils find out more about the threats to African elephants from the ivory trade and create a cartoon strip to explore different perspectives on the issue and to consider possible solutions.

Objectives

- To learn more about the plight of African elephants linked to the ivory trade
- To think critically about why people trade wildlife and explore some of the solutions to help protect elephants
- To appreciate how our choices as consumers affect wildlife

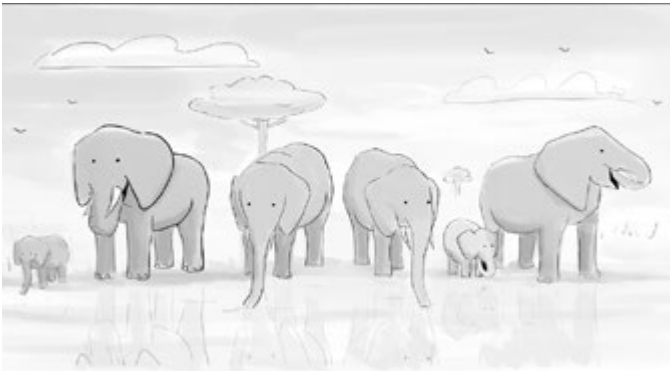
What you need

- WWF 'elephant advert'
- Resource sheet: 'Buying ivory isn't cool'
- 'What would happen if?' short video (produced by 9 year old Rachel using Lego and Stopmotion app)

What to do

- Show the WWF elephant advert and discuss with the class. How does it make them feel? What is the key message? How is the story told? (e.g. provokes emotions, powerful soundtrack, conveys information)? What does it tell you about who is linked to the ivory trade (poachers, smugglers, sellers, buyers and role of local rangers)?
- In pairs, invite pupils to create their own cartoon strip and complete part 1 of the resource sheet 'Buying ivory isn't cool'. To write the missing captions, they have to consider different perspectives on the issue (e.g. local poachers who need to provide for their families, smugglers involved in criminal activities, tourists unaware of the impact of ivory trade).
- Hold a class discussion on who's responsible and why people get involved in the ivory trade. Encourage pupils to see that all parts of this trade chain are interdependent – without any one link, the whole chain would break.
- What can we do to help protect elephants? Widen the discussion to explore possible solutions. The short video 'What would happen if?' can be used to illustrate how the ivory trade is driven by consumers. What else would help to break the chain (e.g. stricter laws to ban ivory, better support and training to rangers, new technologies)?
- Then ask pupils to complete part 2 of the resource sheet and continue the story.
- The cartoon strips can be shared with the class and displayed around the school to help raise awareness.
- As an extension activity, pupils can create an animation of their cartoon strip on a tablet (using the Stopmotion app).

Resource sheet: 'Buying ivory isn't cool' Part one



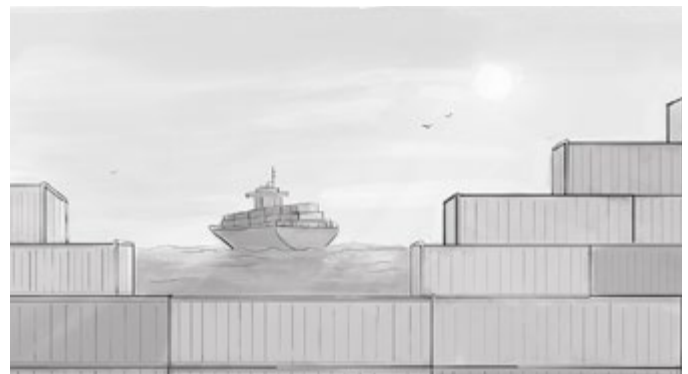
A herd of elephants was _____



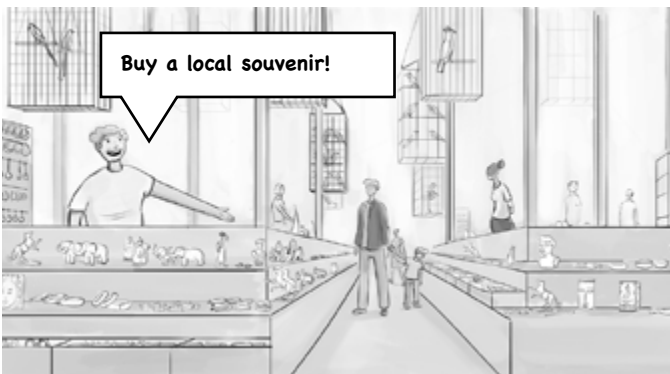
The poachers came to hunt the elephants. They were scared of getting caught but

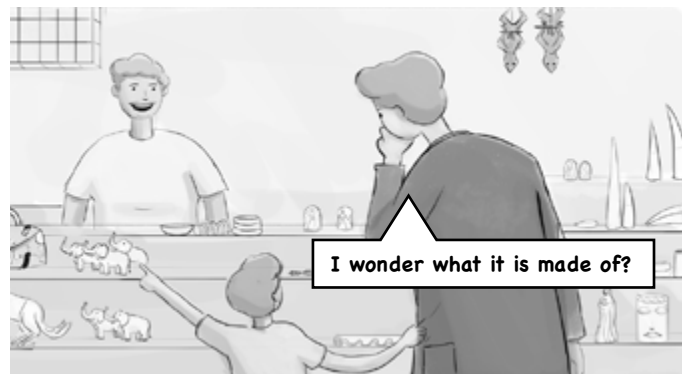


Despite the hard work of rangers to protect the elephants, _____



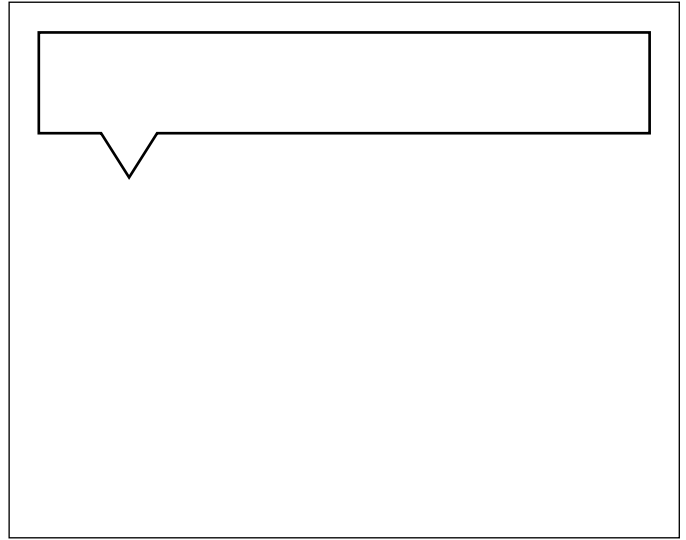
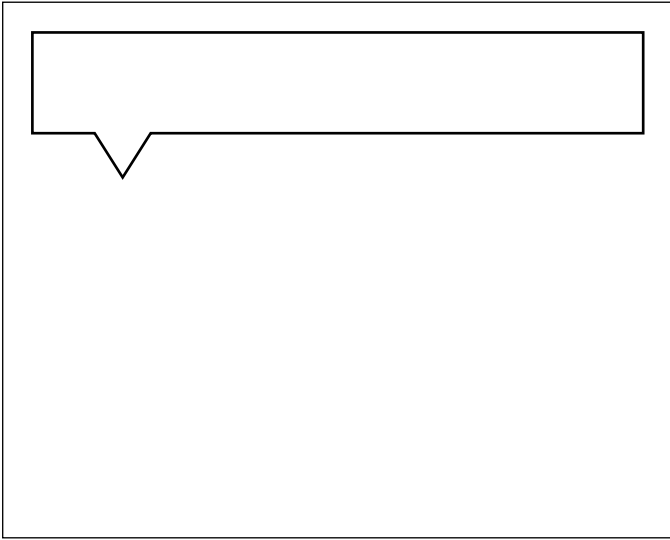
The ivory tusks were hidden and carried by lorry to the port. Then they were shipped to _____

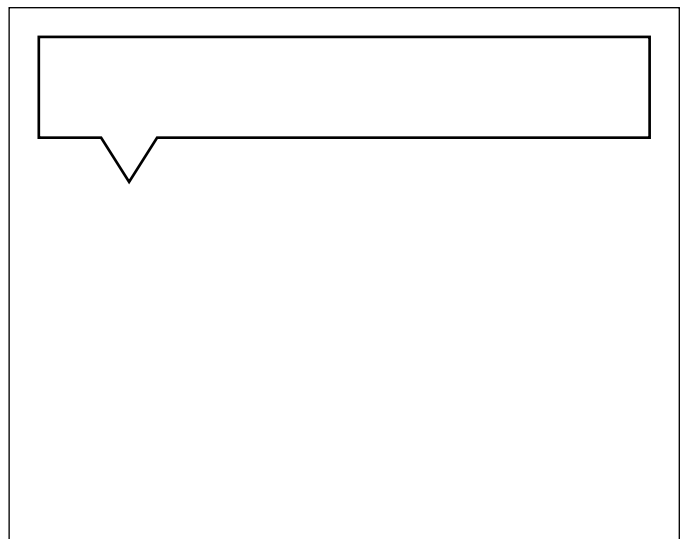
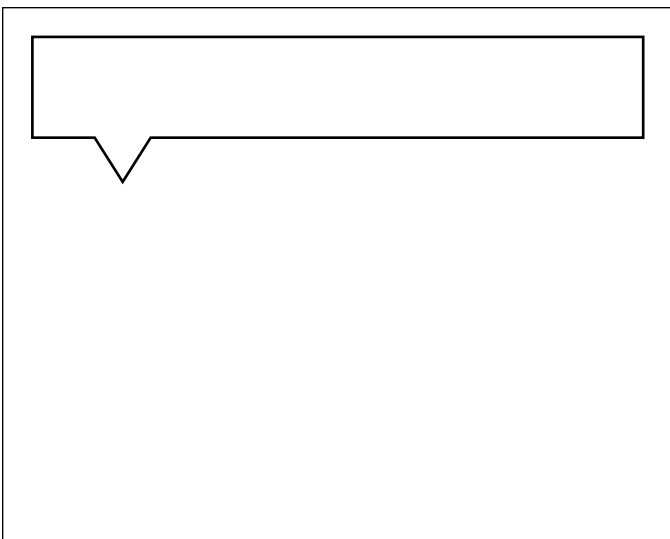




Resource sheet: 'Buying ivory isn't cool' Part two

But one day people stopped buying ivory and ...







© Brent Stinton / Getty Images / WWF-UK



ACTIVITY

5

Take action for your world

Overview

Building on what they have learned, pupils produce infographics or posters with facts, images and data to raise awareness of the impact of illegal trade on wildlife, ecosystems and people.

Objectives

- To reinforce pupils' learning by sharing information with others
- To explore actions we can all take to help protect wildlife
- To use persuasive skills to raise awareness of the importance of protecting wildlife and nature

What you need

- WWF 'Fight for your world' advert
- Slide 1: 'Small changes, big actions'
Slide 2: 'Infographic example'
- Resource sheet 'Top tips on how to create an infographic'



© Adobe Stock

What to do

- Encourage pupils to reflect on what they have learned about the illegal wildlife trade and discuss the best way to tell others and raise awareness in the school community. What would be their key message? What are the possible solutions to help stop this illegal trade? How can they persuade others to take action to help protect wildlife and nature?
- The WWF 'Fight for your world' advert can be shown to inspire and stimulate discussion. You can also use Slide 1 'Small changes, big actions' to illustrate how everyone – governments, businesses, communities and individuals – can play a part in protecting wildlife and nature.
- Then show the infographic example to the class (Slide 2). What makes an infographic effective? Identify attributes and collate these ideas.
- In teams, pupils discuss and agree on the key message they want to communicate and why. They then gather data and facts to support their message and create powerful infographics about the impact of the illegal trade on wildlife, people and the environment and the importance of valuing nature. This can be done as a poster or digitally on a computer or tablet. See resource sheet 'Top tips on how to create an infographic'. These could be displayed around the school, included in a newsletter or posted on the school website, with information about their illegal wildlife trade project.
- Alternatively, pupils could work collaboratively to produce an illegal wildlife trade mural showing the different plant and animal species at risk.

Resource sheet: Top tips on how to create an infographic

An infographic (information graphic) presents information in a graphic or visual format. Through images, colours, graphs and short text, infographics tell a visual story or raise awareness of an issue in a way that helps viewers to grasp quickly and remember

The vibrant colour of its feathers makes the hyacinth macaw a target for the illegal pet trade. **There are only 3,000 left in the wild!**

Over 1,000 rhinos are killed on average each year. Their horns are used in traditional medicine.

There are only around 3,900 tigers left in the wild. They're being killed for their skins, and for their body parts as they are believed to have healing powers.

Around 20,000 elephants are killed every year for their ivory tusks - **that's around 55 every day!**

We need real change all over the world. Take action to help protect wildlife and habitats.

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© Martin Harvey / WWF

© naturepl.com / Francois Savigny / WWF

Here are some top tips to help you create your own infographic

- First, identify your purpose and audience. What do you want to communicate and why? Who are you creating the infographic for?
- Then formulate your key message.
- Gather data and facts that support the story you want to tell, making sure you use reliable sources.
- Write short pieces of text and create visuals (sketches and graphs) to illustrate your data.
- Decide on a good headline or title.
- Choose a layout that works best to convey your story (e.g. divided into sections, two columns, S-curve layout) and font, styles and sizes that are easy to read.
- Use a coordinated colour scheme, selecting bolder colours to make some information stand out and make sure you leave enough white space so it isn't too busy.

About WWF

WWF is one of the world's largest independent conservation organisations, active in nearly 100 countries. Our supporters – more than five million of them – are helping us to restore nature and to tackle the main causes of nature's decline, particularly the food system and climate change. We're fighting to ensure a world with thriving habitats and species, and to change hearts and minds so it becomes unacceptable to overuse our planet's resources.

WWF works with TRAFFIC – the wildlife trade monitoring network, governments and local communities on four key areas to tackle the illegal wildlife trade:

Poaching – Supporting teams of rangers on the ground who protect elephants and other animals from poaching.

Buying – Promoting initiatives that change consumer behaviour and reduce demand for illegal wildlife products.

Trafficking – Exposing and closing key hotspots and routes where ivory and other illegal wildlife products are being traded.

Governments – Putting pressure on governments to improve and enforce their regulations to make it possible to end the illegal wildlife trade.

Inspiring the next generation of sustainability champions

We work with schools to help young people build their knowledge and understanding of the environmental challenges facing our planet and develop the skills to do something about them. Thousands of schools participate in our education programmes and we offer a wide range of curriculum-based resources and real-world activities to engage and inspire pupils, covering issues such as deforestation, climate change, plastics and endangered species. Today's young people are the generation who will be most affected by these issues; our work with educators is part of our mission to build a brighter future for both people and nature.

Find out about the free TES/WWF online course for primary teachers and leaders who want to put education for sustainable development at the heart of their school and inspire a new generation of sustainability champions.

www.tes.com/institute/wwf-cpd-course

wwf.org.uk/schools

#ForYourWorld

About Defra

This pack was funded by Defra as part of their commitment to tackle the illegal wildlife trade. The UK is at the forefront of international efforts to protect endangered species from unsustainable and illegal trade. In October 2018 the UK government hosted an international conference about the illegal wildlife trade. It brought together global leaders to help eradicate illegal wildlife trade and better protect the world's most iconic species from the threat of extinction. More than 70 countries attended the conference, with representatives from more than 400 charities, conservation groups and business. The UK is investing more than £36 million between 2014 and 2021 to take action to counter the illegal wildlife trade, including work to reduce demand, strengthen enforcement, ensure effective legal frameworks and develop sustainable livelihoods.

Tale2Tail

Defra are also funding resources produced by Tale2Tail. Tale2Tail's mission is to educate and inspire children in order to end demand for the illegal wildlife trade. Their free education packs, downloadable from www.tale2tail.org, offer over 20 hours of lessons from amazing illustrators, photographers and storytellers. They include tips from the world's best wildlife photographer, David Yarrow; a masterclass for children on how to draw animals by Axel Scheffler, the award-winning illustrator of the Gruffalo; and a gripping adventure story by author Zella where children discover an ivory smuggling ring.

Conservation Crisis by Tunza Games

A fun new educational board game and game app that challenges players to take control of a wildlife reserve and save an endangered species. Designed and tested by conservation experts, the game is based on the real-life challenges of protecting wildlife, providing players with a unique insight into the sector; players must work with local communities to gain their support, employ rangers to stop poaching for the illegal wildlife trade, and build tourist lodges to raise funds for their conservation work. Suitable for anyone aged 7 to 70, all purchases of the game support real-life conservation projects. The app is available on both Apple and Android stores and the board game is on sale in late 2019. For further information and to request free copies for use in schools, please visit www.tunzagames.com



For a future where people and nature thrive | wwf.org.uk

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