

LESSON PLAN

May 2018

PRECIOUS TUSKS AND PRICELESS HORNS



JUST
ENGLISH

Vol. 15 Issue 1

AN UNEXPECTED AFTERLIFE

C1

UPPER INTERMEDIATE

Stages	Procedure	Time
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To practice <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. predicting skills b. identifying irrelevant details in a paragraph c. inferring meaning of words in context 	
Warmer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher writes the following raw materials on the board: wool, ivory, leather, silk, venom and pearl. 2. Teacher asks students if they know the source of these raw materials. 3. Teacher elicits and discusses answers. 	5 mins
Pre-reading	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher then reads the following to the students: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Precious Tusks and Priceless horns (<i>title of the article</i>) b) When the bullying stops, the killing can too. (<i>last sentence of the article</i>) 2. Teacher asks students the following questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Which two animal is the title of the article referring to? b) What do you think the article is going to be about? 3. Teacher elicits and discusses answers. 	5 mins
While-Reading	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher distributes Task 1. Without referring to the article, teacher gets students to work with their partners to identify the irrelevant detail of each paragraph. 2. Teacher then gets students to skim and scan through article to confirm their answers. 3. Next, teacher gets students to continue with Task 2. 4. Students work in pairs to answer the vocabulary questions. 5. Teacher elicits and confirms answers. 	12 mins
Post-reading	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher gets students to organise a class campaign on saving endangered species. 2. Teacher can get students to brainstorm for campaign slogans and activities. 	13 mins
Wrap	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher summarises discussion and wraps up lesson. 	5 mins

TASK 1

Read the topic sentence of each paragraph below. Identify and cross out the irrelevant detail in each paragraph.

1. Both the elephant and the rhinoceros have the unfortunate privilege of sporting some very unique appendages. The elephant has a pair of tusks protruding from the sides of its mouth while the rhinoceros has one or two horns growing on top of its nose. These tusks and horns serve very similar purposes for both animals. They are the two heaviest land animals living today. They use their appendages for fighting or self-defence and for digging holes. These beasts also put their tusks and horns on display when trying to attract a mate.

2. Ivory became popular because of its creamy colour and the fact that it is soft and large enough to be carved into intricate designs. Ivory tusks have been shaped into religious carvings, decorative boxes, pipe stems, jewellery and used as the white eyes of statues. Furthermore, as tusks are actually overgrown elephant teeth, it became fashionable to have false teeth made out of the ivory! Rhinoceros horns are also shaped into handles for daggers and knives. In South East Asia, ivory was also commonly shaped into handles for the *keris*, a type of small dagger used for fighting.

3. Poaching for tusks and horns has drastically reduced elephant and rhinoceros populations around the world. The demand from the old Greek and Roman civilizations have driven elephant populations in Syria and North Africa to extinction. Some elephant sub-species have evolved to grow shorter tusks so that they will be less attractive to poachers. More recently, the western black rhinoceros was declared extinct in 2001 due to poaching. Because of this, many elephant and rhinoceros sub-species have been listed in Appendix 1 of the international Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

4. Poachers still hunt these majestic animals for the black market trade. People have used ivory for ornamental purposes since the ancient Greek and Roman times some 1,700 years ago. One horn can cost more than USD 300,000! Actually, elephant tusks and rhinoceros horns can be harvested safely from these animals. However, poachers do not do this. The animals are usually shot before their tusks and horns are roughly cut away.

TASK 2

Read each paragraph below and answer the questions that follow.

1. The elephant and the rhinoceros are the two heaviest land animals living today. You may think that such majestic creatures would be just about untouchable. ... Even tigers would think twice before trying to attack an elephant! However, despite their great girth, human beings are hunting these grand creatures.

- a. Which two words in the excerpt above show the impressiveness of the elephants and the rhinoceros?
- b. Which word in the excerpt above tells you that it is difficult to defeat an elephant or a rhinoceros?

2. Ivory became popular because of its creamy colour and the fact that it is soft and large enough to be carved into intricate designs. At that time, elephants were much more numerous than today, so the supply of ivory must have seemed almost endless! Ivory tusks have been shaped into religious carvings, decorative boxes, pipe stems, jewellery and used as the white eyes of statues.

- a. Which two words in the excerpt above have the similar meanings?
- b. Which word in the excerpt above means 'very detailed and complicated'?

3. Powdered rhinoceros horn is believed to be an effective cure for many ailments like fever, rheumatism, gout, seizures and even cancer. However, none of the alleged medicinal effects of rhinoceros horn powder have been proven by science. Because of this and because of increased poaching for these horns, China has removed the rhinoceros horn from their Chinese Medicine Pharmacopeia.

- a. Which word in the excerpt above is a synonym to the word 'illnesses'?
- b. Which word in the excerpt above means 'unproven'?

4. Some elephant sub-species have evolved to grow shorter tusks so that they will be less attractive to poachers. Countries who face poaching problems are also trying many tactics to protect these animals from extinction. For example, Kenya has armed rangers protecting the last male northern white rhinoceros day and night.

- a. Which word in the excerpt above is a synonym to the word 'changed'?
- b. Which word in the excerpt above tells you that weapons are needed in order to protect the endangered species?

ANSWERS

Task 1

Below are the irrelevant sentences.

1. They are the two heaviest land animals living today.
2. Rhinoceros horns are also shaped into handles for daggers and knives.
3. Some elephant sub-species have evolved to grow shorter tusks so that they will be less attractive to poachers.
4. People have used ivory for ornamental purposes since the ancient Greek and Roman times some 1,700 years ago.

Task 2

1. a) majestic; grand
b) untouchable
2. a) numerous; endless
b) intricate
3. a) ailments
b) alleged
4. a) evolved
b) armed